

Vol 1017

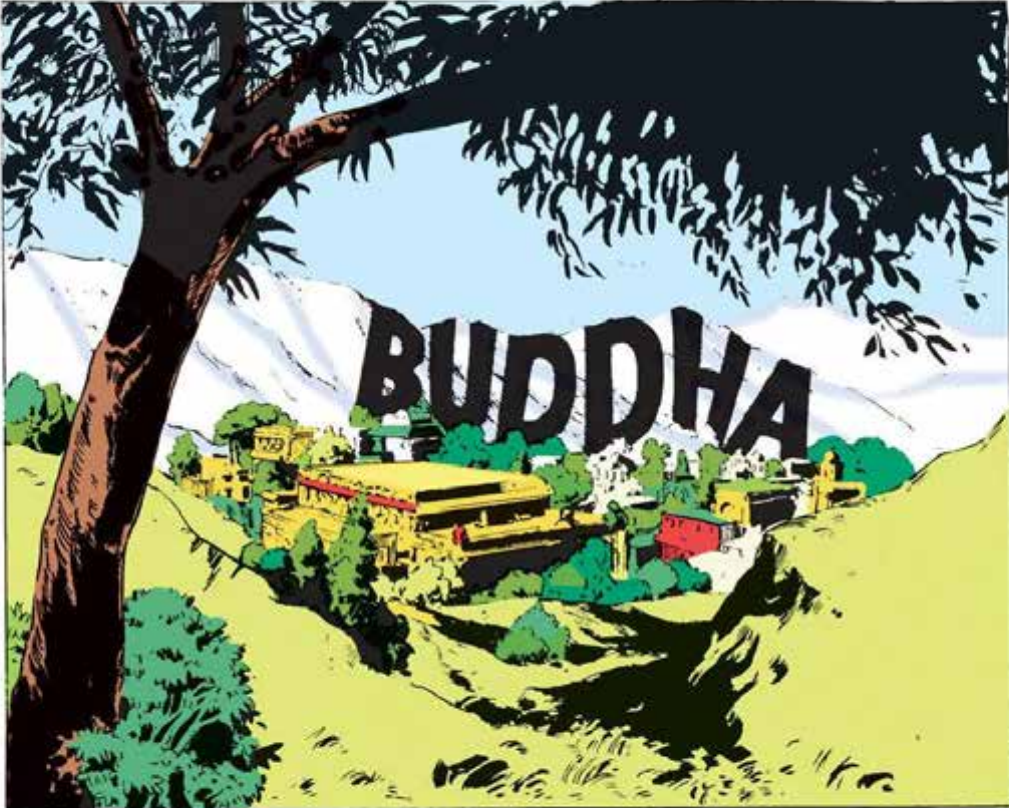
5-IN-1



BUDDHIST STORIES

• Buddha • King Kusha • Angulimala • Amrapali • The Acrobat and Other Buddhist Tales





IN THE HIMALAYAN FOOTHILLS, KAPILAVASTU WAS A SMALL BUT PROSPEROUS KINGDOM. THE SAKYAS RULED OVER IT. SUDDHODANA WAS THEIR KING.

ONE DAY, HIS QUEEN, MAYA-DEVI, DREAMT THAT A WHITE ELEPHANT WITH SIX TUSKS, PIERCED HER WOMB.



TEN MONTHS LATER THE QUEEN WAS ON HER WAY TO HER FATHER'S HOUSE. AS SHE WAS PASSING THROUGH A BEAUTIFUL GROVE ON THE WAY TO LUMBINI...



THE QUEEN GOT DOWN AND STARTED WALKING TOWARDS A SALA TREE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GARDEN. SUDDENLY...



THERE A BABY WAS BORN TO HER. IT WAS THE FULL MOON NIGHT OF VAISAKHA. THERE WAS SILENCE ALL AROUND.

ON HEARING THE NEWS, THE KING RUSHED TO LUMBINI AND BROUGHT THE MOTHER AND THE CHILD TO THE PALACE. SAGE ASITA CAME TO THE PALACE TO SEE THE BABY.



I SEE TEARS IN YOUR EYES, SAGE ASITA. WHY ARE YOU UNHAPPY?

THIS BOY WILL BE A KING OF KINGS...OR A GREAT SAINT. I AM CRYING BECAUSE I WILL NOT LIVE TO HEAR HIS GREAT WORDS.

BOTH THE KING AND THE QUEEN WERE HAPPY. ON THE FIFTH DAY—

LET US NAME HIM SIDDHARTHA.



AND WE WILL SEE THAT HE BECOMES A KING OF KINGS AND NOT A SAINT.

IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS THE QUEEN BECAME SERIOUSLY ILL.

ON THE SEVENTH DAY AFTER THE BIRTH OF SIDDHARTHA—



SISTER PRAJAPATI, I SHALL SOON LEAVE THIS WORLD. WHEN I AM GONE, PLEASE BE A KIND MOTHER TO SIDDHARTHA. PROMISE ME.

I PROMISE.

AFTER A YEAR HAD PASSED—

YOU HAVE
BEEN A GOOD
MOTHER
TO HIM,
PRAJAPATI.

I LOVE
HIM DEARLY.
I AM PROUD
TO BE HIS
MOTHER.



AS SIDDHARTHA GREW, THE KING BECAME ANXIOUS ABOUT THE PROPHECY.

HE SPENDS SO MUCH
TIME ALONE, UNDER
THAT JAMBU TREE.
I DON'T LIKE THAT.

HE SAYS, HIS
PLAYMATES
PLAY CRUEL
GAMES.




ONE DAY AS SIDDHARTHA WAS WALKING ALONG IN THE GARDEN—

POOR BIRD!
I WONDER
WHOSE
ARROW HAS
HURT HIM.

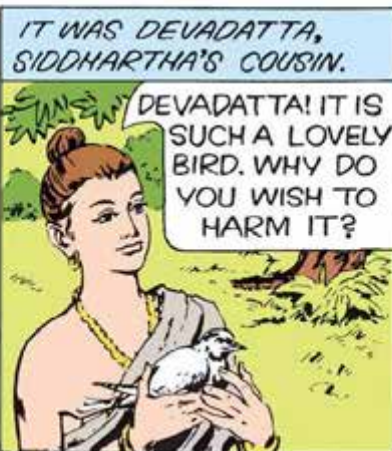


SIDDHARTHA GENTLY REMOVED THE ARROW AND TENDED TO THE BIRD'S WOUND. SOME TIME LATER -




THIS IS MY BIRD. I SHOT IT! GIVE IT TO ME.

IT WAS DEVADATTA, SIDDHARTHA'S COUSIN.



DEVADATTA! IT IS SUCH A LOVELY BIRD. WHY DO YOU WISH TO HARM IT?



THE BIRD BELONGS TO ME. GIVE IT BACK.

I WON'T DO THAT.

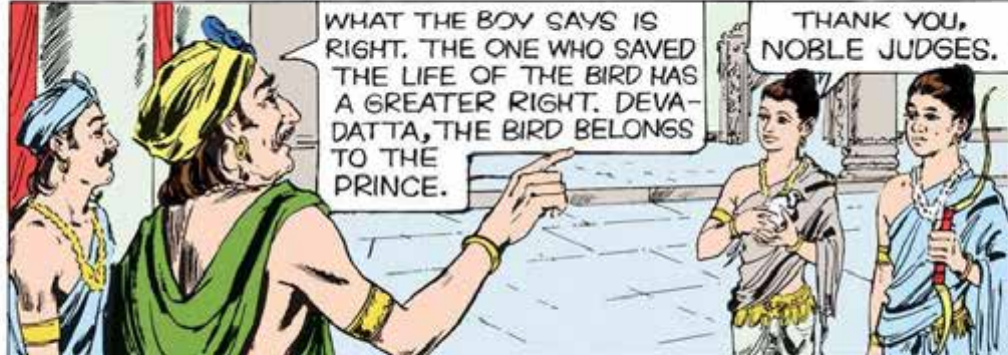
THE MATTER WAS TAKEN TO THE COURT -



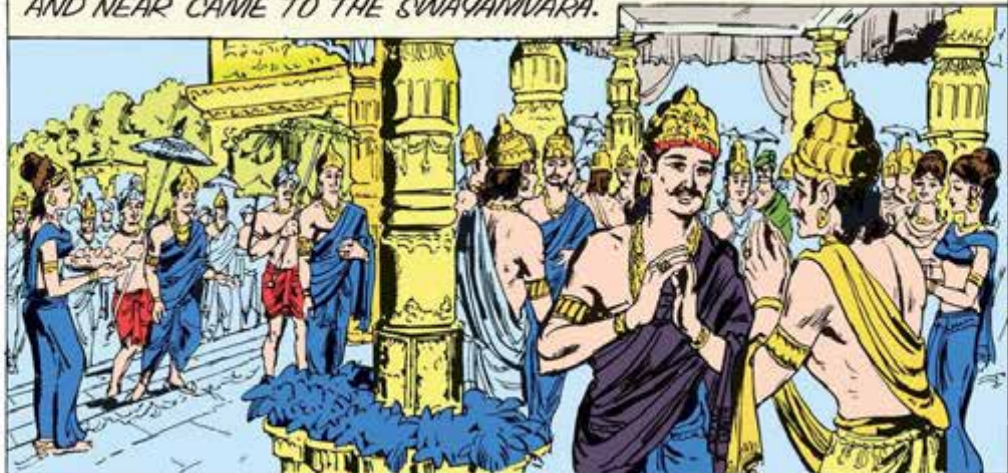
PRINCE! WHAT RIGHT HAVE YOU TO KEEP THE BIRD?

SIR, IF I HAD NOT REMOVED THE ARROW, THE BIRD WOULD HAVE DIED. THE BIRD OWES ITS LIFE TO ME. SHOULD THE BIRD BELONG TO

THE ONE WHO TOOK ITS LIFE OR TO THE ONE WHO GAVE IT LIFE?



YEARS ROLLED BY. DANDAPANI, A SAKYAN NOBLE ARRANGED THE SWAYAMVARA OF HIS DAUGHTER, YASHODHARA. PRINCES FROM FAR AND NEAR CAME TO THE SWAYAMVARA.



YASHODHARA CHOSE SIDDHARTHA AS HER HUSBAND.



THE ASSEMBLED PRINCES WERE HURT BY YASHODHARA'S CHOICE. THEY APPROACHED DANDAPANI.

SIR THE PRINCESS SHOULD NOT BE MARRIED TO SIDDHARTHA. HE IS NOT A GOOD FIGHTER.

SIR, YOU SHOULD HOLD A TEST IN ARCHERY. THE PRINCESS SHOULD BE GIVEN IN MARRIAGE TO THE WINNER.

DANDAPANI TRIED TO PERSUADE HIS DAUGHTER.

YASHODHARA! CHOOSE SOME-ONE ELSE AS YOUR HUSBAND.

FATHER, I HAVE MADE MY CHOICE. PLEASE AGREE TO IT.

WHEN THE NEWS REACHED KING SUDDHODANA, HE FELT SAD.

FATHER, WHY ARE YOU SAD?

THE PEOPLE DON'T THINK YOU ARE A GOOD WARRIOR.

FATHER, LET DANDAPANI HOLD A TEST. I WILL TAKE PART IN IT.

I AM HAPPY TO HEAR THAT. YOUR ANCESTORS WERE GREAT WARRIORS, SIDDHARTHA.

MANY GATHERED TO WITNESS THE TEST.



SIDDHARTHA AND YASHODHARA WERE MARRIED WITH GREAT POMP.



THE KING TRIED HIS BEST TO PROVIDE ALL THE COMFORTS OF LIFE TO SIDDHARTHA.



SOON, A SON WAS BORN TO THEM. KING SUDDHODANA WAS PLEASED WHEN HE HEARD THE NEWS.

LORD!
IT IS A
BOY!

GOOD! NOW
SIDDHARTHA
WILL NEVER
THINK OF
BECOMING
A SAINT.

ONE DAY...

FATHER, I WOULD
LIKE TO GO OUT
OF THE PALACE
AND SEE MORE
OF THE WORLD.

I WILL ORDER A
CHARIOT FOR YOU.
AFTER IT IS
READY, YOU
CAN GO OUT
IN IT.

A FEW DAYS LATER, IN A BEAUTIFUL CHARIOT WITH FOUR HORSES
DRIVEN BY CHANNA, SIDDHARTHA DROVE THROUGH THE STREETS
OF THE CITY.

HOW
HANDSOME
THE
PRINCE IS.

I HAVE
HEARD, HE
IS BRAVE AND
FEARLESS.

IN THE CITY, KING SUDDHODANA HAD ORDERED ALL SIGHTS OF UNHAPPINESS TO BE KEPT AWAY FROM SIDDHARTHA. BUT AS HE DROVE FURTHER...

CHANNA, WHO IS THIS? HIS HEAD IS WHITE. HE SEEMS VERY WEAK. HIS SKIN IS WRINKLED.

HE IS AN OLD MAN, MASTER! HE IS BENT WITH AGE.

DOES EVERYONE GET OLD, CHANNA?

YES, MY LORD! EVERYONE HAS TO GROW OLD.

WILL MY YASHODHARA ALSO GROW OLD? WILL MY STRENGTH GO AWAY WITH YEARS?

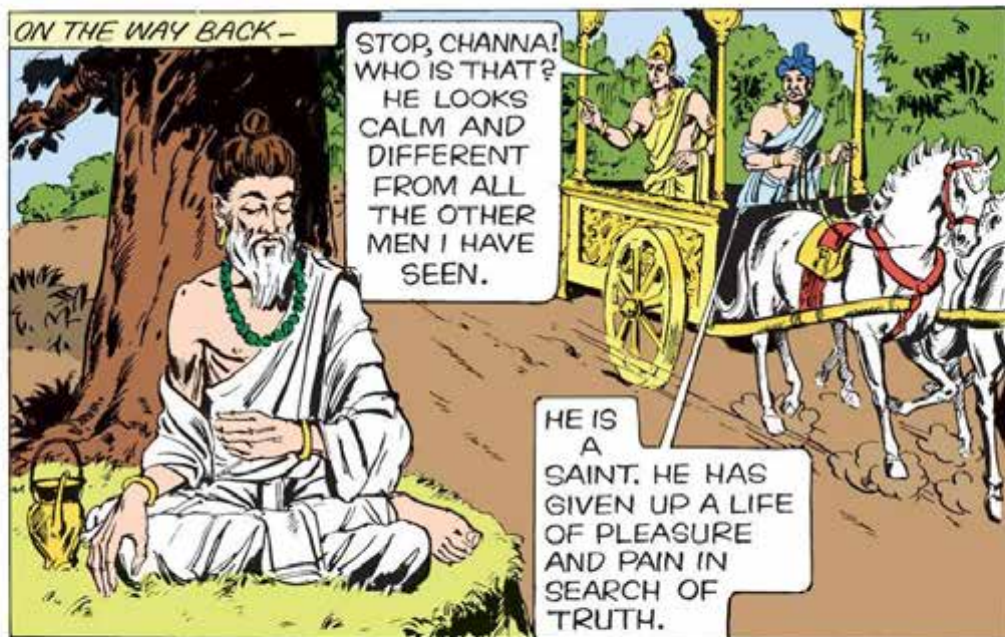
ON ANOTHER DAY—


WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH THIS MAN?

HE IS ILL, MY LORD! HE IS CRYING WITH PAIN.

IS DISEASE PECULIAR TO HIM?

NO, MY LORD! ANYONE MAY FALL ILL IN HIS LIFETIME.

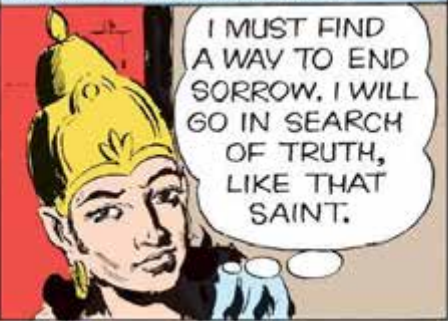




SIDDHARTHA!
PLEASE TELL ME
THE CAUSE OF
YOUR
UNHAPPINESS!

MOTHER, I
HAVE LEARNT
THAT ALL THINGS
ALIVE AND
BEAUTIFUL KEEP
CHANGING. MEN
GROW OLD. MEN
FALL ILL AND
DIE. I FEEL UN-
HAPPY WHEN I
THINK OF THESE
THINGS.

IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT,
HE MADE THE DECISION.




I MUST FIND
A WAY TO END
SORROW. I WILL
GO IN SEARCH
OF TRUTH,
LIKE THAT
SAINT.



CHANNA GET MY
HORSE READY!
I WISH
TO
RIDE
OUT.

YES,
MASTER!

BEFORE LEAVING, THE PRINCE RETURNED TO THE BEDROOM OF
HIS WIFE, YASHODHARA
AND THE CHILD, RAHULA,
WERE FAST ASLEEP.



I CAN'T KISS RAHULA
GOODBYE; THAT
WILL AWAKEN
YASHODHARA.
I MUST GO.

SIDDHARTHA MOUNTED HIS HORSE AND RODE OUT, ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY CHANNA.



ONCE THEY WERE OUTSIDE THE CITY, SIDDHARTHA GOT DOWN FROM THE HORSE.



CHANNA, TAKE ALL MY JEWELS AND RETURN TO KAPILAVASTU.

HE THEN CUT OFF HIS LONG HAIR AND WALKED ALONE.



LATER HE SAW A BEGGAR.

HALT, MY GOOD MAN! TAKE

MY CLOTHES AND GIVE ME YOURS.

WITH PLEASURE, MASTER.



SOON HE REACHED RAJAGRIHA, THE CAPITAL OF MAGADHA. HE WENT FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE SILENTLY WAITING TILL THE PEOPLE OFFERED HIM FOOD. KING BIMBISARA OBSERVED HIM FROM HIS PALACE.

LOOK AT THAT SAINT. HE LOOKS SO HANDSOME. FIND OUT WHO HE IS.



AS SOON AS THE MESSENGERS BROUGHT NEWS ABOUT SIDDHARTHA, KING BIMBISARA WENT TO MEET HIM.

YOU SEEM TO BE -
LONG TO A NOBLE
FAMILY. YOUR HAND
SHOULD NOT HOLD
A BEGGING BOWL,
BUT THE REINS OF
AN EMPIRE. I WILL
GIVE YOU A HIGH
POSITION IN MY
KINGDOM. COME.



O KING, YOU ARE
KIND. BUT I CANNOT
ACCEPT YOUR
INVITATION.
I FEEL THAT
LIFE IS FULL
OF SORROW.
I WISH TO
FIND A WAY TO
END ALL SORROW.



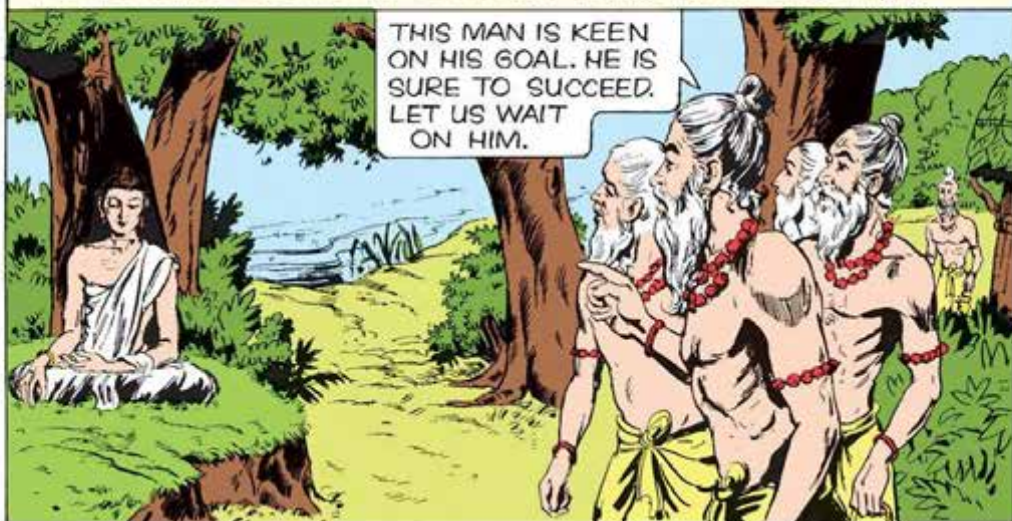
IF THAT IS YOUR
WISH, I PRAY
THAT YOU
FIND IT.
PLEASE COME
AND TEACH
ME WHEN
YOU HAVE
FOUND THE
SOLUTION.



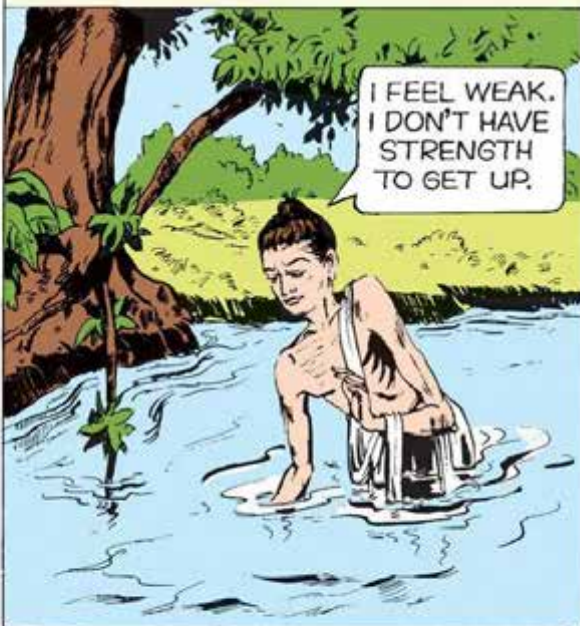
FROM RAJAGRIHA, SIDDHARTHA WENT IN SEARCH OF THE GREAT
SAGES OF THOSE DAYS. NOT SATISFIED WITH THEIR TEACHINGS,
HE ENTERED THE THICK JUNGLES OF URUBILVA, NEAR GAYA OF
TODAY.



THERE WERE FIVE HERMITS IN THE JUNGLES OF URUBILVA.



SIDDHARTHA DRANK ONLY WATER AND ATE ONLY FRUITS AND HERBS. HE SLEPT ON THE HARD GROUND. AFTER SOME TIME HE STARTED EATING ONLY ONE HEMP GRAIN EVERY DAY. THIS MADE HIM VERY WEAK. ONE DAY, WHEN HE HAD GONE TO BATHE IN THE RIVER...

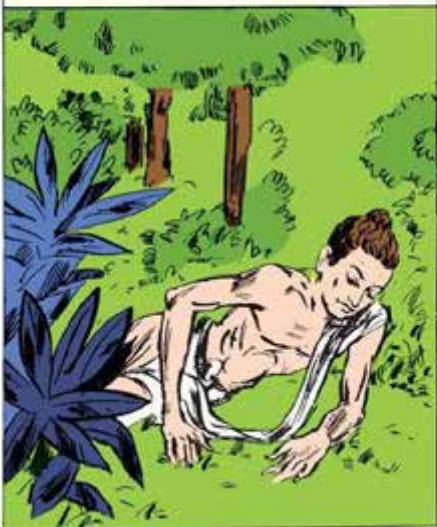


HE CAUGHT HOLD OF A LOW BRANCH OF A TREE AND RAISED HIMSELF WITH ITS SUPPORT.



BUT AS HE BEGAN TO WALK AWAY FROM THE BANK, HE FELT WEAK AND FELL DOWN.

SLOWLY HE GOT UP.



NEXT DAY, AS HE SAT BENEATH A BANIAN TREE, SUWATA, DAUGHTER OF A HERDSMAN, CAME TO THAT SPOT. SHE OFFERED FOOD TO BUDDHA.



THANK YOU FOR FEEDING ME.

LATER—

HOW IS IT THAT YOU HAVE STARTED EATING FOOD AGAIN?

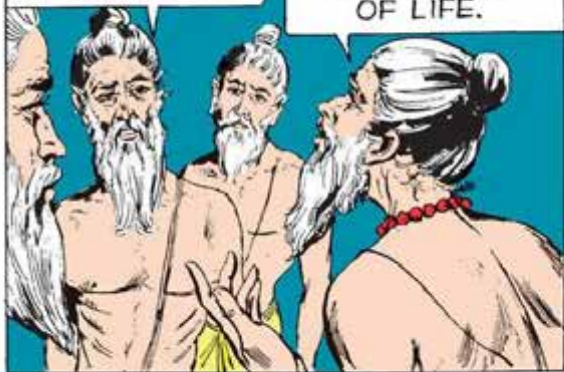
I HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT STARVING DOES NOT HELP IN REACHING THE TRUTH.



THE FIVE ASCETICS WERE DISAPPOINTED.


HE DOES NOT DESERVE OUR RESPECT.

YES, HE WANTS THE PLEASURES OF LIFE.



SIDDHARTHA NOW LIVED A LONELY LIFE.


HE MOVED TOWARDS A BODHI TREE AND SAT BENEATH IT.



THEY HAVE LEFT ME. LET THEM GO. BUT STARVING THE BODY IS NOT GOING TO HELP. I AM NOW SURE OF THAT.




HEAT AND COLD, HUNGER AND THIRST TROUBLED HIM. RAIN LASHED ON HIM.




COME WHAT MAY, I SHALL NOT MOVE FROM THIS SEAT TILL I FIND A WAY TO END SORROW.

VISIONS OF THE LIFE OF PLEASURE FLOATED BEFORE HIS EYES. BUT NOTHING COULD TEMPT HIM.



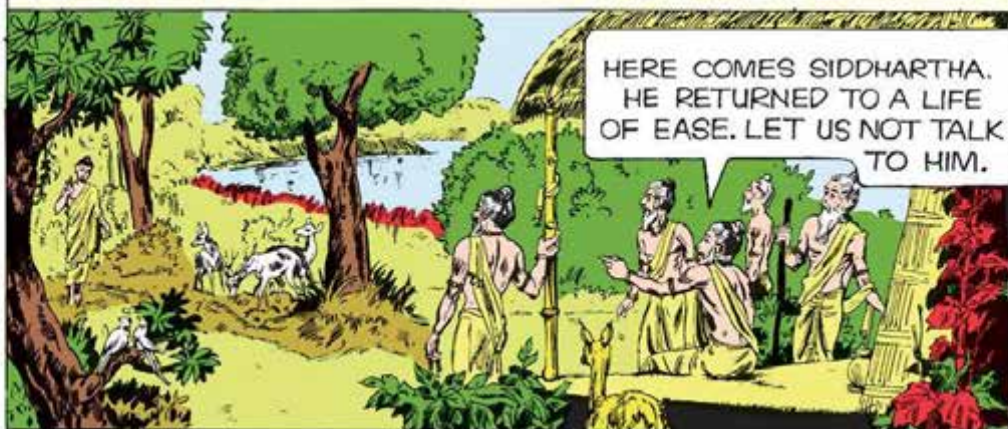
AND THEN HE SAW LIGHT.

SIDDHARTHA BECAME THE BUDDHA, THE ENLIGHTENED ONE.



I KNOW. I KNOW THE TRUTH NOW. THE WAY TO END SORROW IS FOUND.

HE SPENT SEVEN WEEKS UNDER THE TREE ENJOYING HIS STATE OF PERFECT HAPPINESS. THEN HE WENT OUT INTO THE WORLD TO TEACH OTHERS. FIRST, HE WENT TO BANARAS, IN SEARCH OF THE FIVE ASCETICS, WHO WERE WITH HIM IN URUBILVA. HE FOUND THEM IN DEER PARK.



HERE COMES SIDDHARTHA. HE RETURNED TO A LIFE OF EASE. LET US NOT TALK TO HIM.

BUT AS SOON AS HE CAME NEAR, THEY GOT UP AND RECEIVED HIM WITH RESPECT.

I HAVE COME TO TELL YOU WHAT I HAVE FOUND. LISTEN!



WHEN THEY HEARD THE BUDDHA, THEY BECAME HIS DISCIPLES. THE SANGHA THUS CAME INTO BEING.

THERE IS GREAT SORROW IN THIS WORLD. THIS SORROW IS BECAUSE OF DESIRE. IF YOU CAN FREE YOURSELF FROM DESIRE, YOU WILL BE FREE FROM SORROW. I WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY TO REMOVE SORROW FROM THE MIND.



AFTER THAT, HE RETURNED TO URUBILVA AND WENT TO THE HOUSE OF KASSHYAPA, A GREAT BRAHMAN.



WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I WANT TO SPEND A NIGHT HERE.



YOU
ARE
WELCOME.
PLEASE
COME
IN.

*KASSHYAPA WAS A
WORSHIPPER OF AGNI,
THE GOD OF FIRE*



MAY I
STAY IN
THE
ROOM,
WHERE YOU
KEEP
THE
SACRED
FIRE?



HAVEN'T YOU
HEARD THAT THE
SACRED FIRE IS
GUARDED BY A
SERPENT AT
NIGHT? THE
SERPENT WILL
BITE YOU IF
YOU GO NEAR
THE FIRE.

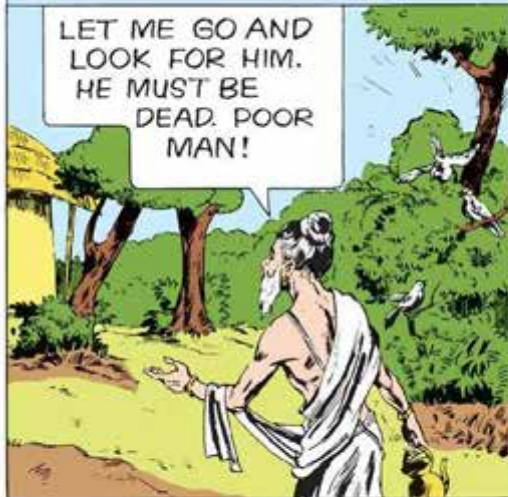
I AM NOT AFRAID.
PLEASE ALLOW ME
TO SPEND THE
NIGHT THERE.

*AT LAST KASSHYAPA AGREED.
BUDDHA SAT SILENTLY
BEFORE THE FIRE. KASSHYAPA
WENT TO SLEEP OUTSIDE.*



EARLY NEXT MORNING -

LET ME GO AND
LOOK FOR HIM.
HE MUST BE
DEAD. POOR
MAN!



WHEN HE WENT INSIDE THE ROOM, HE
SAW BUDDHA SITTING PEACEFULLY. THE
LIGHT FROM THE FIRE SHONE ON HIS
FACE.



I ACCEPT YOU
AS MY MASTER.
TEACH ME.



BUDDHA TAUGHT KASSHYAPA AND
MANY OTHERS IN URUBILVA.



ONE DAY-

MASTER,
I HAVE HEARD
THAT KING BIMBISARA
WILL BE CELEBRATING A
GREAT

YAGNA.

LET US GO
TO RAJAGRIHA.



ON THEIR WAY TO RAJAGRIHA, THEY SAW A HERD OF SHEEP. THERE
WAS A LAME LAMB. BUDDHA LIFTED IT IN HIS ARMS.



POOR THING,
IT MUST HAVE BEEN
SUFFERING A
LOT OF PAIN.



GOOD MAN,
WHERE ARE
YOU GOING?

I AM GOING TO RAJA-
GRIHA. THESE SHEEP
BELONG TO THE
KING. THEY ARE
GOING TO BE SACRI-
FICED IN THE
YAGNA - IN
THE SACRED
FIRE.

BIMBISARA HEARD THAT BUDDHA
WAS ON HIS WAY TO RAJAGRIHA.
HE WENT FORWARD WITH
HIS MINISTERS
TO MEET HIM.



HE IS IN THE
COMPANY OF
URUBILVA
KASSHYAPA. DOES
THAT MEAN
BUDDHA IS
HIS DISCIPLE?

WHEN THEY CAME NEAR, BUDDHA GENTLY PLACED THE LAMB
DOWN.

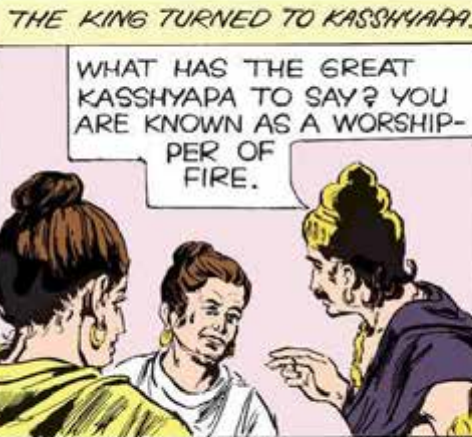
YOU HAD EXPRESSED
THE WISH
TO SEE ME
AFTER I HAD
FOUND THE WAY.
HERE I AM.



HOLY ONE! I AM
ABOUT TO BEGIN
A YAGNA. GREAT
KASSHYAPA
AND YOU ARE
ALSO WELCOME
TO TAKE
PART IN IT.

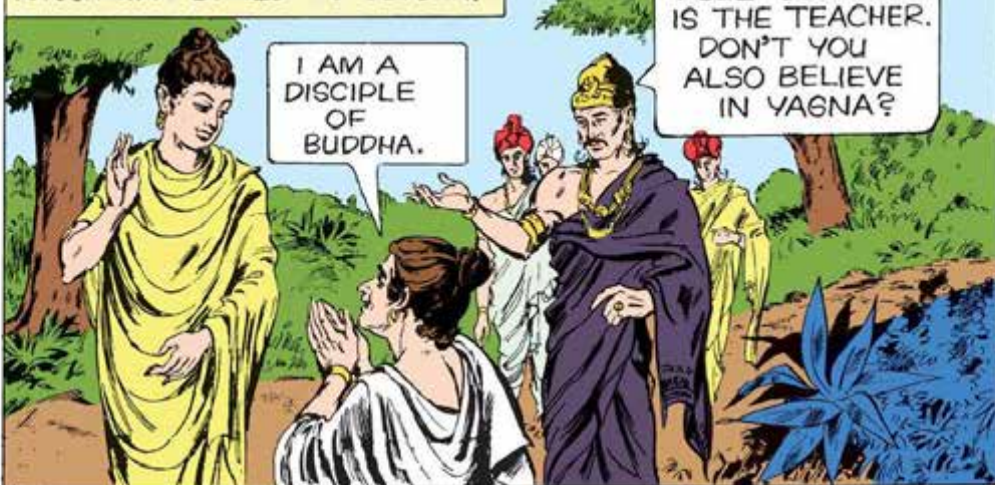


O KING, KILLING
OF INNOCENT
ANIMALS
CANNOT BE
A GOOD DEED.
THE WAY TO
HAPPINESS DOES
NOT LIE
IN YAGNA.



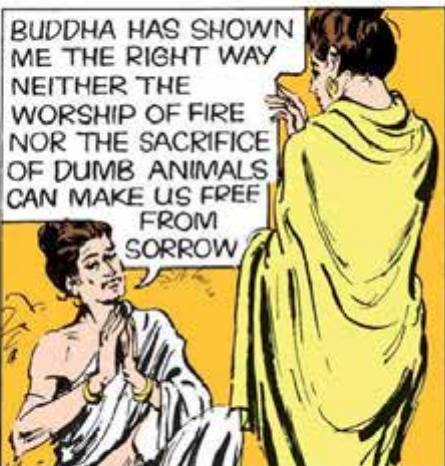
WHAT HAS THE GREAT
KASSHYAPA TO SAY? YOU
ARE KNOWN AS A WORSHIP-
PER OF
FIRE.

KASSHYAPA BOWED TO BUDDHA.

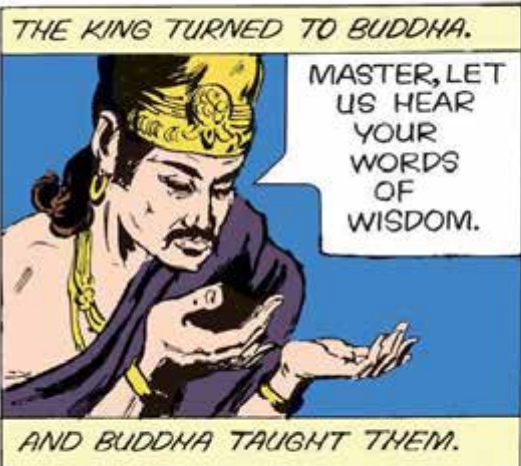


I AM A
DISCIPLE
OF
BUDDHA.

I SEE BUDDHA
IS THE TEACHER.
DON'T YOU
ALSO BELIEVE
IN YAGNA?



BUDDHA HAS SHOWN
ME THE RIGHT WAY
NEITHER THE
WORSHIP OF FIRE
NOR THE SACRIFICE
OF DUMB ANIMALS
CAN MAKE US FREE
FROM
SORROW



THE KING TURNED TO BUDDHA.

MASTER, LET
US HEAR
YOUR
WORDS
OF
WISDOM.

AND BUDDHA TAUGHT THEM.

LORD, I HAVE GIVEN
UP THE IDEA OF
PERFORMING YAGNA.
I TAKE REFUGE
IN BUDDHA.

NEXT DAY, THE KING INVITED BUDDHA
AND HIS DISCIPLES FOR A MEAL AT HIS
PALACE. AFTER THE MEAL WAS OVER...

LORD, I GIVE VENUVANA,
MY GARDEN AS A
GIFT TO THE SANGHA.
PLEASE ACCEPT IT.

ONE DAY, KRISHA GOTAMI BROUGHT BEFORE BUDDHA HER
DEAD CHILD.

MASTER, PLEASE BRING
IT BACK TO LIFE. IT IS MY
ONLY CHILD.

CONTROL YOUR GRIEF.
DO AS I SAY. GET ME
A FEW MUSTARD
SEEDS FROM ANY
HOUSE, WHERE NO
DEATH HAS TAKEN
PLACE. AND I
WILL BRING
BACK TO LIFE
YOUR CHILD.

FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE KRISHA GOTAMI WENT.

I LOST
MY HUSBAND
LAST YEAR!

I LOST MY TWO
CHILDREN.

MY
MOTHER
DIED
YESTERDAY.

DISAPPOINTED KRISHNA GOTAMI
CAME BACK TO BUDDHA.

LORD! I COULD
NOT FIND A
PLACE WHERE
NO DEATH HAS
OCCURRED.



MY CHILD ALL THAT IS BORN,
MUST DIE ONE DAY. THERE IS
ULTIMATELY NOTHING BUT
SORROW IN LIFE.
IT IS FREEDOM
FROM DESIRE
THAT FREES US
FROM SORROW.



AFTER A FEW YEARS, AT SUDDHODANA'S COURT.

LORD! OUR PRINCE HAS BECOME
FAMOUS. MANY HAVE BECOME
HIS DISCIPLES. THEY ARE
SPREADING HIS TEACHINGS.



GO TO SIDDHARTHA
AND TELL HIM
THAT I AM GROW-
ING OLD AND WISH
TO SEE HIM BEFORE
I DIE.



WHEN BUDDHA REACHED KAPILAVASTU...

WELCOME MY
SON! I WISH YOU
WOULD BECOME
KING.



I AM SORRY. I HAVE
CHOSEN THE PATH
OF PEACE.



THE KING ARRANGED FOR BUDDHA'S STAY IN A GROVE NEARBY.

NEXT MORNING—

LORD, THE PRINCE IS GOING FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE TO RECEIVE ALMS IN THE CITY!!

QUICK. LEAD ME TO HIM.

MY SON, MUST YOU BEG?

BUT IT IS OUR CUSTOM.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU ARE DESCENDED FROM KINGS.

O GREAT KING, YOU CLAIM DESCENT FROM KINGS. MY DESCENT IS FROM THE BUDDHAS OF OLD. THEY ALWAYS BEGGED FOR THEIR FOOD AND LIVED ON ALMS.

ONCE THEY REACHED THE PALACE, BUDDHA SPOKE SOFTLY TO ALL THOSE THAT HAD GATHERED.

HIS WORDS ARE THE WORDS OF A GREAT MAN.

THEY BRING PEACE TO THE HEART.

BUDDHA NOTICED THAT YASHODHARA WAS NOT PRESENT.

WHERE IS
YASHODHARA?

SHE HAS
REFUSED
TO COME.



SHE HAS BEEN VERY UN-
HAPPY EVER SINCE YOU
LEFT. SHE HAS CUT HER
HAIR, WEARS SIMPLE
CLOTHES AND EATS
SPARINGLY JUST
AS YOU DID.



*WITH TWO OF HIS DISCIPLES, BUDDHA
WENT TO YASHODHARA'S CHAMBER.*



I MUST TRY
TO HEAL
THE SORROW
IN HER
HEART.




WHEN YASHODHARA
SAW BUDDHA, SHE FELL
AT HIS FEET AND
WEPT.

THEN REMEMBERING THAT
OTHERS WERE PRESENT,
SHE GOT UP AND SAT AT A
LITTLE DISTANCE.



BUDDHA SPOKE WORDS OF COMFORT.

A WEEK AFTER BUDDHA CAME TO KAPILAVASTU.



RAHULA, DO YOU SEE THE MAN SITTING THERE IN THE CENTRE? HE IS YOUR FATHER. GO TO HIM AND ASK FOR YOUR SHARE OF HIS PROPERTY.

RAHULA WENT TO BUDDHA.

FATHER! MY MOTHER SENT ME TO ASK YOU FOR MY SHARE OF YOUR PROPERTY.

BUDDHA TURNED TO SARI-PUTRA, HIS DISCIPLE.

MY SON ASKS FOR HIS INHERITANCE. WELL THEN, TAKE HIM IN THE SANGHA.

AFTER RAHULA JOINED THE SANGHA, MANY YOUNG MEN OF THE ROYAL FAMILY ALSO JOINED. AMONGST THEM WAS DEVADATTA. HE ALSO MOVED ABOUT WITH BUDDHA. ONE DAY—

MASTER, YOU SHOULD REST. I SHALL LEAD THE SANGHA.

NO, DEVA-DATTA THE SANGHA STILL NEEDS MY GUIDANCE.

DEVADATTA FELT JEALOUS OF BUDDHA. HE WENT TO RAJAGRIHA AND MET AJATASATRU, SON OF KING BIMBISARA.

PRINCE AJATASATRU!
HOW LONG CAN YOU
WAIT TO BECOME
A KING?
PUT YOUR
FATHER
IN PRISON
AND BE A
KING
YOURSELF.

IT IS A GOOD IDEA,
DEVADATTA. I
WILL DO AS
YOU SAY.

AJATASATRU DID AS DEVA-
DATTA ADVISED HIM.

IT IS NICE TO
BE A KING.
THANK YOU,
DEVADATTA!
IF YOU WANT
MY HELP IN
ANYTHING,
ASK FOR IT.

I NEED
YOUR HELP,
KING
AJATASATRU.
HELP ME
KILL BUDDHA.
I HATE
HIM.



DEVADATTA TRIED MANY WAYS
TO KILL BUDDHA.



LOOK OUT!
A BIG STONE
IS ROLLING
DOWN
TOWARDS
BUDDHA.

SIT WHERE
YOU ARE. NO
HARM WILL
COME TO ME.

THE ROCK SPLIT INTO TWO AND A PIECE FELL ON EITHER SIDE OF BUDDHA.



MANY OF DEVADATTA'S FOLLOWERS CAME TO JOIN THE SANGHA OF BUDDHA.

THE ROCK DID NOT KILL HIM.



HE LOOKS FRAIL, BUT HE IS GREAT. LET US GO TO HIM.

I HEAR, MANY OF MY FOLLOWERS HAVE JOINED HIS SANGHA. WHY NOT SET AN ELEPHANT ON HIM?



YET ANOTHER ORDER FROM AJATA-SATRU.

INTOXICATE THE ELEPHANT NALAGIRI, AND THEN LET HIM LOOSE IN THE PATH OF BUDDHA.



RUN, RUN, NALAGIRI IS FREE. HE HAS RUINED HALF THE TOWN ALREADY. TWENTY MEN HAVE BEEN KILLED.



MASTER, LET US HIDE. A WILD ELEPHANT IS COMING THIS WAY.

NO, HE WON'T HARM US.



NALAGIRI CAME THUMPING ALONG AND RUSHED TOWARDS BUDDHA IN A MAD FURY.



BUDDHA SMILED AND RAISED HIS HAND. THE ELEPHANT, AT ONCE CALMED, KNELT AT HIS FEET.



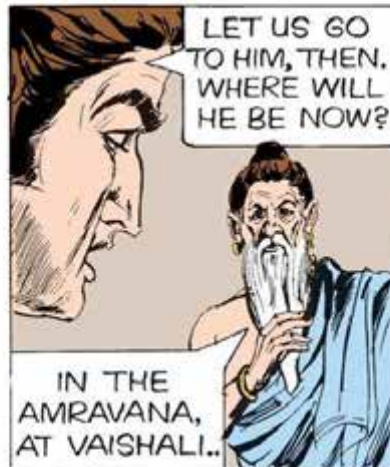
AJATASATRU WAS AN UNHAPPY MAN. HE FELL ILL OFTEN. JIVAKA WAS HIS PHYSICIAN.

JIVAKA, WHY DO I SUFFER?



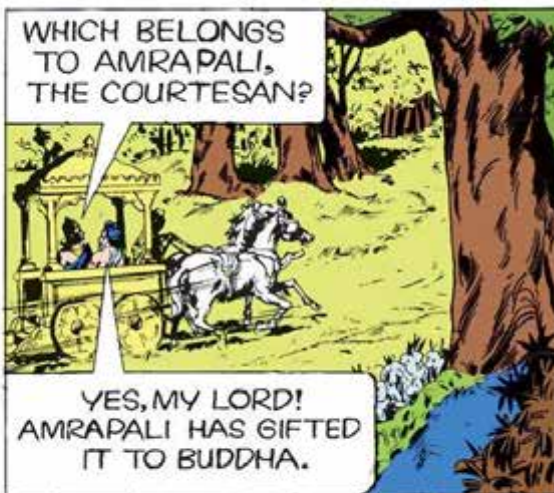
YOUR AILMENT IS NOT PHYSICAL BUT SPIRITUAL ONLY. BUDDHA CAN HELP YOU.

LET US GO TO HIM, THEN. WHERE WILL HE BE NOW?



IN THE AMRAVANA, AT VAISHALI..

WHICH BELONGS TO AMRAPALI, THE COURTESAN?



YES, MY LORD! AMRAPALI HAS GIFTED IT TO BUDDHA.

WHEN AJATASATRU REACHED AMRAVANA- HE IS

I HEARD NO SOUND. WHERE IS BUDDHA?

HERE WITH OVER TWELVE HUNDRED DISCIPLES



*AJATASATRU'S MIND
TROUBLED HIM.*

TWELVE HUNDRED
PEOPLE! NOT A
SOUND OF HUMAN
HABITATION HERE!!
HAVE YOU BROUGHT
ME HERE TO BE
KILLED? IS IT A
PLOT OF YOURS?

MY LORD! TRUST
ME. LET US GO
AHEAD.

*AND AJATASATRU WAS SPELL-BOUND WHEN HE SAW THE
ASSEMBLY OF MEN LISTENING QUIETLY TO THE GREAT TEACHER.*

ALL SUFFERING AND PAIN, FEAR
AND HATRED, COME FROM DESIRE.
THE MAN WHO IS FREE FROM ALL
DESIRE, NEED NOT WORRY. WHOM
HAS HE TO
FEAR?

HOW
SOOTHING!

*AJATASATRU BECAME A
DISCIPLE OF BUDDHA.*

*NOT MUCH LATER, DEVADATTA ALSO REPENTED. ONE DAY, HE
SAID TO HIS FOLLOWERS—*

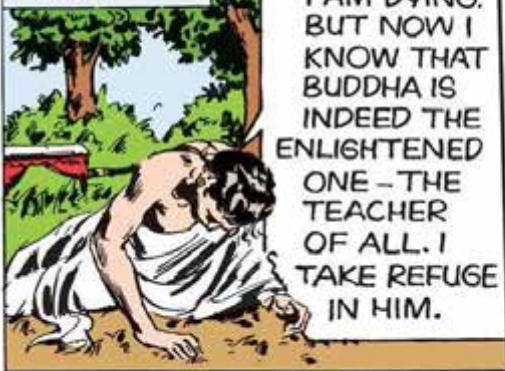
CHILDREN,
TAKE ME TO BUDDHA.
HE ALONE CAN
BRING PEACE TO
MY TROUBLED MIND.

THE MEN CARRYING DEVADATTA KEPT DOWN THE LITTER AND WENT TO REFRESH THEMSELVES.



WHERE HAVE MY MEN GONE? I AM IN A HURRY TO MEET BUDDHA.

BEFORE HE COULD REACH BUDDHA, HE TOTTERED AND FELL.



I AM DYING. BUT NOW I KNOW THAT BUDDHA IS INDEED THE ENLIGHTENED ONE - THE TEACHER OF ALL. I TAKE REFUGE IN HIM.



BUDDHAM
SARANAM
GACCHAMI

DHAMMAM
SARANAM
GACCHAMI

SANGHAM
SARANAM
GACCHAMI

BUDDHA LIVED TO A RIPE OLD AGE. MILLIONS TOOK REFUGE IN HIM AND IN HIS TEACHINGS. PEOPLE, WHO SPOKE DIFFERENT LANGUAGES AND BELONGED TO DISTANT LANDS BECAME HIS FOLLOWERS.



KING KUSHA

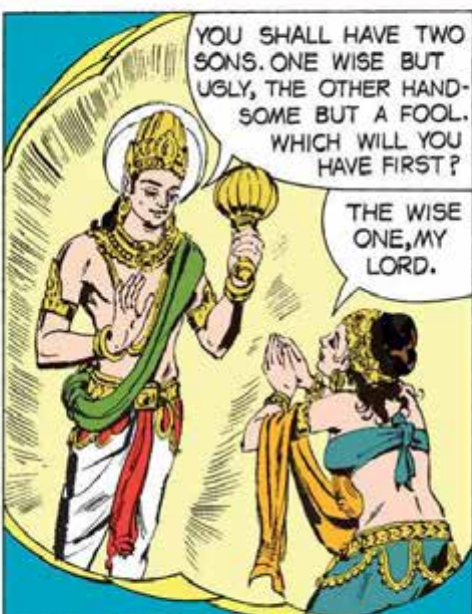
A JATAKA STORY ABOUT INNER BEAUTY



KING KUSHA



SHEELAVATI, THE CHIEF QUEEN OF THE HEIRLESS KING OKKAKA OF KUSHAVATI, WAS OFFERED A BOON BY INDRA, KING OF THE GODS.



YOU SHALL HAVE TWO SONS. ONE WISE BUT UGLY, THE OTHER HANDSOME BUT A FOOL. WHICH WILL YOU HAVE FIRST?

THE WISE ONE, MY LORD.



IN DUE COURSE, SHEELAVATI GAVE BIRTH TO A SON.

HE SHALL BE CALLED KUSHA.

TWO YEARS LATER, SHE GAVE BIRTH TO THE SECOND SON — JAYAMPATI.

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL BABY!



EVEN AS A CHILD, KUSHA WAS CONSCIOUS OF HIS APPEARANCE.

I MUST EXCEL IN ALL THE ARTS TO MAKE UP FOR MY UGLY LOOKS.



IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED, KUSHA MASTERED THE ARTS OF MUSIC, PAINTING AND SCULPTURE. ONE DAY—

SHEELAVATI, KUSHA IS ALMOST SIXTEEN YEARS OLD. I WOULD LIKE TO PLACE HIM ON THE THRONE WHILE I AM YET ALIVE. BUT BEFORE I DO, I'D LIKE TO SEE HIM MARRIED.

I TOO WOULD LOVE TO HAVE A DAUGHTER IN THE PALACE!



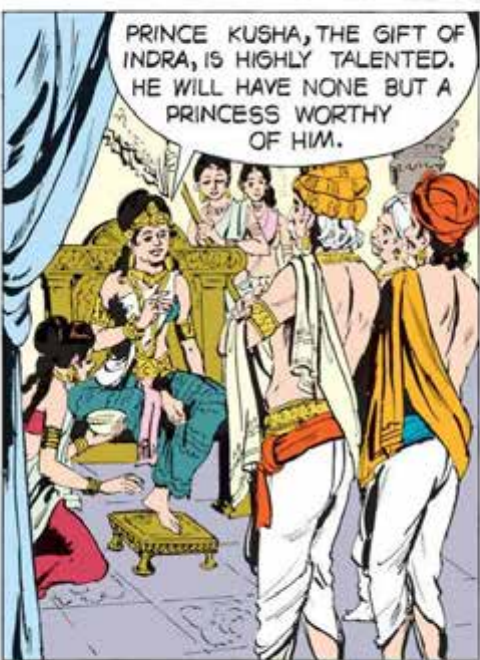
WHEN KUSHA LEARNT OF HIS PARENTS' WISHES HE WAS SAD.

WOULD ANY PRINCESS MARRY AN UGLY FELLOW LIKE ME?

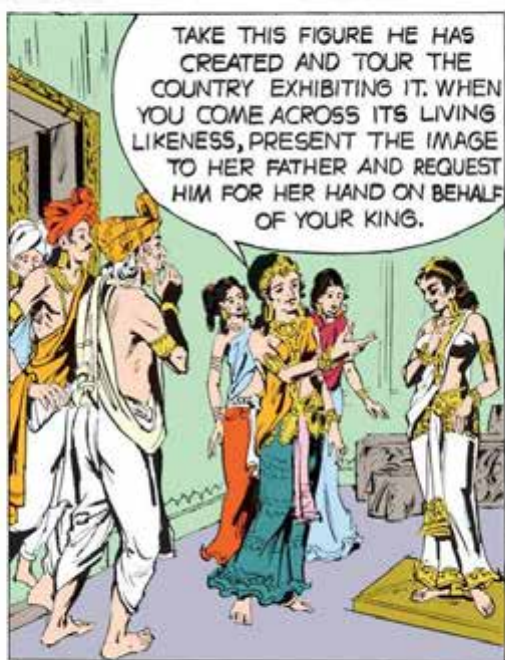




PRINCE KUSHA, THE GIFT OF
INDRA, IS HIGHLY TALENTED.
HE WILL HAVE NONE BUT A
PRINCESS WORTHY
OF HIM.



TAKE THIS FIGURE HE HAS
CREATED AND TOUR THE
COUNTRY EXHIBITING IT. WHEN
YOU COME ACROSS ITS LIVING
LIKENESS, PRESENT THE IMAGE
TO HER FATHER AND REQUEST
HIM FOR HER HAND ON BEHALF
OF YOUR KING.



THE COUNCILLORS TRAVELLED FROM
KINGDOM TO KINGDOM, EXHIBITING
THE IMAGE, TILL AT LAST THEY ARRIV-
ED AT SAGALA, THE CAPITAL OF THE
KINGDOM OF MADDA.

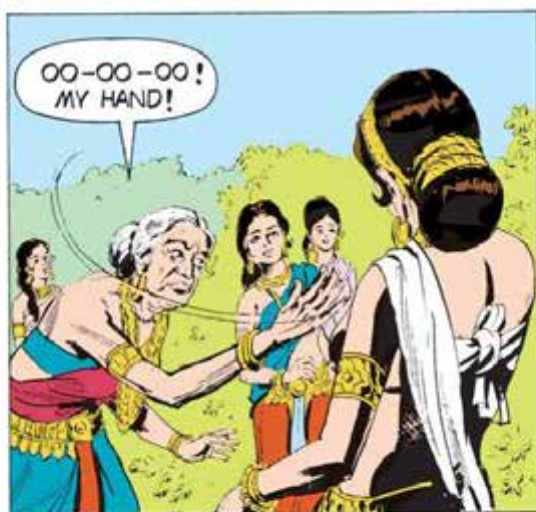


AS USUAL, THEY PLACED THE IMAGE AT A
CONSPICUOUS SPOT. THEN—

NOW LET US STAND AWAY
FROM IT AND OVERHEAR
THE COMMENTS OF
THOSE WHO PASS BY.



AFTER A WHILE, A HUNCHBACK FOLLOWED BY SEVEN OR EIGHT MAIDS CAME BY.



MADAM! WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOUR HAND! IT'S BRUISED AND BROKEN!



BUT THE OLD HUNCHBACK SOON RECOVERED HER COMPOSURE.

HA! HA! HA! WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN. I MISTOOK THIS CHEAP IMAGE TO BE THE PRINCESS.

HA! HA! HOW COULD YOU?



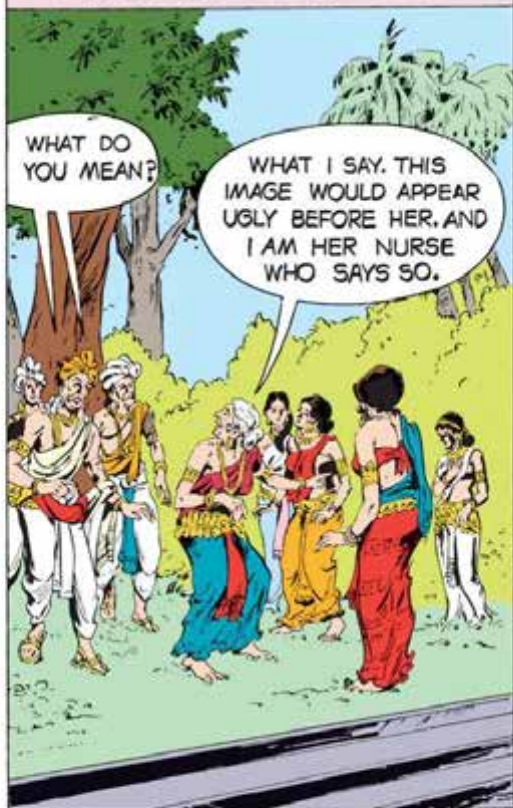
I HAVE HURT MY HANDS FOR INSULTING HER. WHAT IS THIS WORTHLESS IMAGE COMPARED TO MY DARLING PRABHAVATI!!



THE COUNCILLORS WERE OVERJOYED.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WHAT I SAY. THIS IMAGE WOULD APPEAR UGLY BEFORE HER, AND I AM HER NURSE WHO SAYS SO.



THE DELIGHTED COUNCILLORS IMMEDIATELY SOUGHT AN AUDIENCE WITH PRABHAVATI'S FATHER.

YOUR MAJESTY, OUR KING, OKKAKA OF KUSHAVATI, IS ANXIOUS TO PLACE HIS SON, THE BRAVE PRINCE KUSHA, ON THE THRONE. WE REQUEST YOU ON HIS BEHALF FOR THE HAND OF PRINCESS PRABHAVATI.

WE GLADLY AGREE. WE WOULD BE HONOURED BY THE ALLIANCE.



BACK AT KUSHAVATI—

YOUR MAJESTY, WE HAVE FOUND HER—A PRINCESS MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN THE IMAGE!



WHEN KING OKKAKA AND QUEEN SHEELAVATI HEARD THE WHOLE STORY—

LET US SET OUT FOR SAGALA AT ONCE WITH A LARGE RETINUE.

YES! LET US NOT WASTE A MOMENT.



WHEN THEY REACHED SAGALA, THEY WERE RECEIVED GRACIOUSLY BY THE KING, THE QUEEN, PRINCESS PRABHAVATI AND HER SEVEN YOUNGER SISTERS.

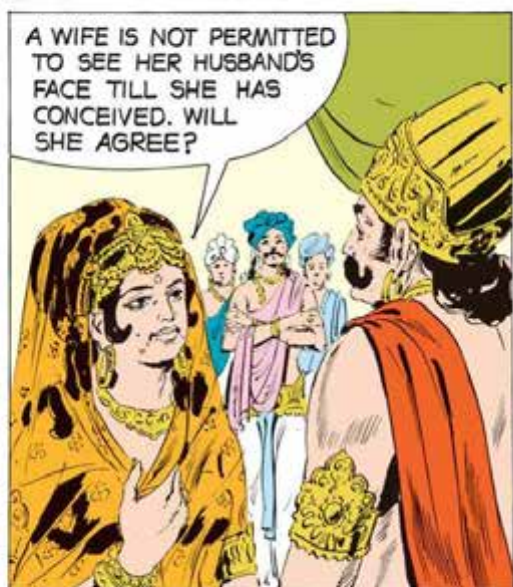


LATER, WHEN PRABHAVATI CAME TO PAY HER RESPECTS TO SHEELAVATI —

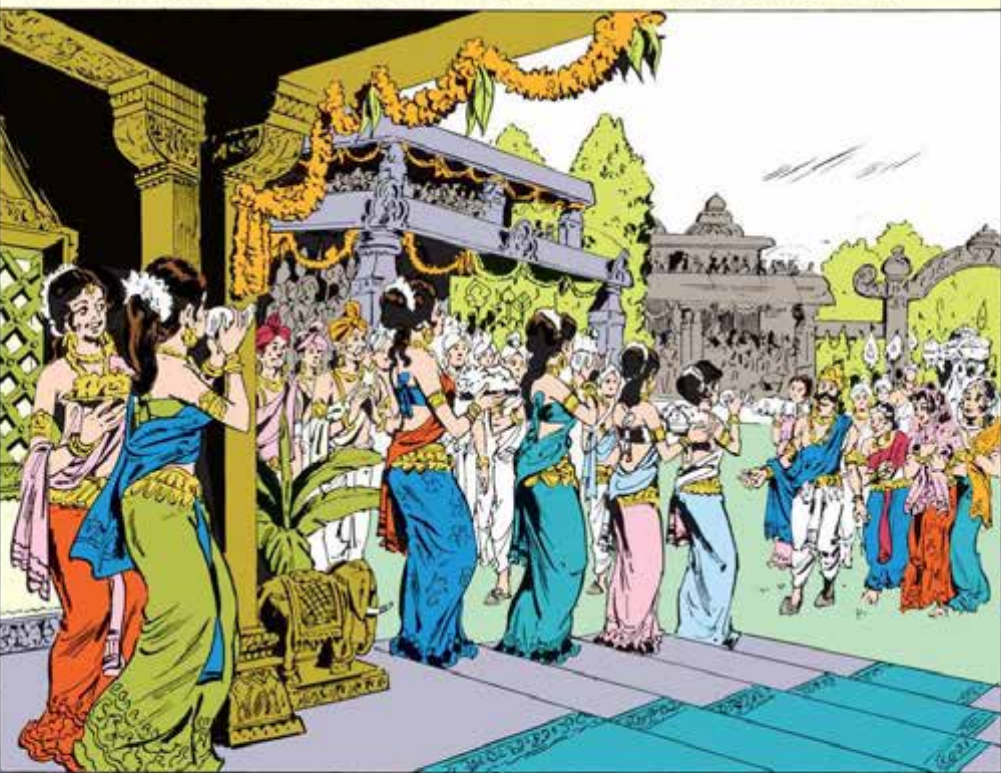


WHEN PRABHAVATI HAD LEFT, SHEELAVATI SPOKE TO THE KING OF MADDA.





PRABHAVATI AGREED TO RESPECT THE TRADITION AND AFTER MUCH GIVING AND RECEIVING OF GIFTS, OKKAKA AND SHEELAVATI ESCORTED THEIR DAUGHTER-IN-LAW, ALONG WITH HER NURSE AND A VAST RETINUE, TO KUSHAVATI.



BACK AT KUSHAVATI —

HAVE THE CITY DECORATED.
RELEASE ALL PRISONERS.
THE WEDDING AND
THE CORONATION OF
PRINCE KUSHA SHALL
BE CELEBRATED
TODAY!

NEITHER KUSHA NOR PRABHAVATI SAW EACH OTHER'S FACE, BUT—

HOW WELL HE
PLAYS THE VEENA!*
HE MUST HAVE
THE SENSITIVE
FACE OF A
MUSICIAN.

AH! I CAN ONLY
IMAGINE HOW SHE
LOOKS BY THINKING
OF MY GOLDEN
IMAGE.

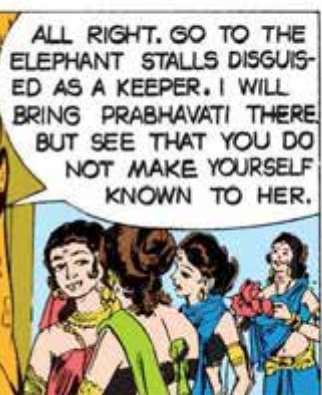
A FEW DAYS AFTER THE WEDDING, KING KUSHA CAME TO SHEELAVATI.

MOTHER, PLEASE PERMIT
ME TO LOOK AT MY WIFE,
BUT ONCE.

YOU WILL HAVE TO
WAIT UNTIL SHE HAS
CONCEIVED.



I CANNOT WAIT
TILL THEN,
MOTHER.



ALL RIGHT. GO TO THE
ELEPHANT STALLS DISGUISED
AS A KEEPER. I WILL
BRING PRABHAVATI THERE
BUT SEE THAT YOU DO
NOT MAKE YOURSELF
KNOWN TO HER.



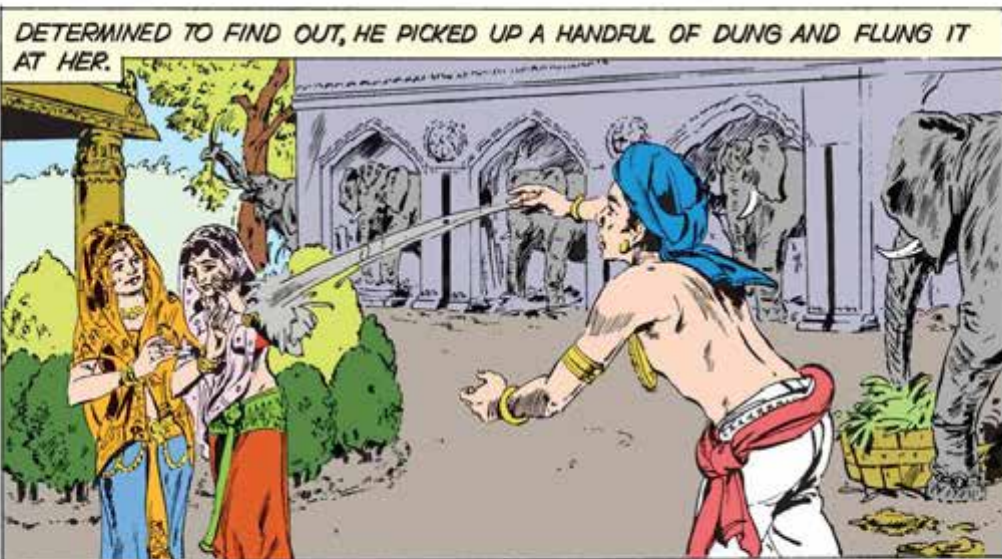
SHEELAVATI THEN WENT TO
PRABHAVATI.

YOU HAVE NOT
YET SEEN YOUR
LORD'S ELEPHANTS.
COME, I WILL SHOW
THEM TO YOU.



WHEN KUSHA SAW PRABHAVATI AS SHE WALKED
BEHIND HIS MOTHER, HE WAS ENCHANTED.

IS SHE A
PRINCESS OR
A GODDESS?



DETERMINED TO FIND OUT, HE PICKED UP A HANDFUL OF DUNG AND FLUNG IT
AT HER.

PRABHAVATI WAS ENRAGED.

HOW DARE YOU!
YOU UGLY FELLOW.
I WILL GET THE
KING, MY HUSBAND,
TO CUT OFF YOUR
HANDS.

SHE IS A
PRINCESS!



**AS SHEELAVATI PACIFIED HER AND
HURRIED HER AWAY—**

MOTHER, I MUST
SEE MY HUSBAND'S
FACE—JUST ONCE.

NO! PLEASE
DON'T ASK FOR
THAT. IT WOULD
BE INAUSP
CIOUS.



**BUT PRABHAVATI WENT ON PLEADING.
AT LAST—**

WELL, TOMORROW MY
SON WILL BE RIDING
THROUGH THE CITY.
YOU CAN OPEN YOUR
WINDOW AND SEE HIM.



I WILL TELL KUSHA
TO SEND JAYAMPATI
IN A PROCESSION
THROUGH THE
STREETS. HE CAN
WEAR KUSHA'S
CLOTHES AND
RIDE ON HIS
ELEPHANT.



POOR KUSHA WAS NOT GO-
ING TO MISS THE CHANCE
OF SEEING HIS WIFE AGAIN.



THE NEXT DAY WHEN PRABHAVATI SAW JAYAMPATI—



WHEN THE PROCESSION HAD PASSED BY,
PRABHAVATI TURNED AWAY FROM THE WINDOW.

DID YOU
SEE YOUR
LORD?



DON'T BE MISLED BY LOOKS.
THAT MAN IS CAPABLE AND
THE KING MUST HAVE A
CAPABLE MAN SITTING
BEHIND HIM.



BUT PRABHAVATI WAS NOT CONVINCED.

NO MAN WOULD BE ALLOWED TO BEHAVE LIKE THAT HOWEVER EXCELLENT HIS SERVICES MIGHT BE. CAN IT BE THAT HE IS KING KUSHA AND THEY DO NOT LET ME SEE HIM BECAUSE HE IS SO UGLY?



SHE TURNED TO HER NURSE.

RUN, MY DEAR. FIND OUT WHO WAS THE KING — THE MAN IN FRONT OR THE ONE BEHIND.

HOW AM I TO FIND OUT?



THE KING WILL BE THE FIRST TO ALIGHT FROM THE ELEPHANT. GO. DON'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME.



WHEN THE NURSE SAW KUSHA ALIGHT FIRST, SHE WAS SHOCKED.

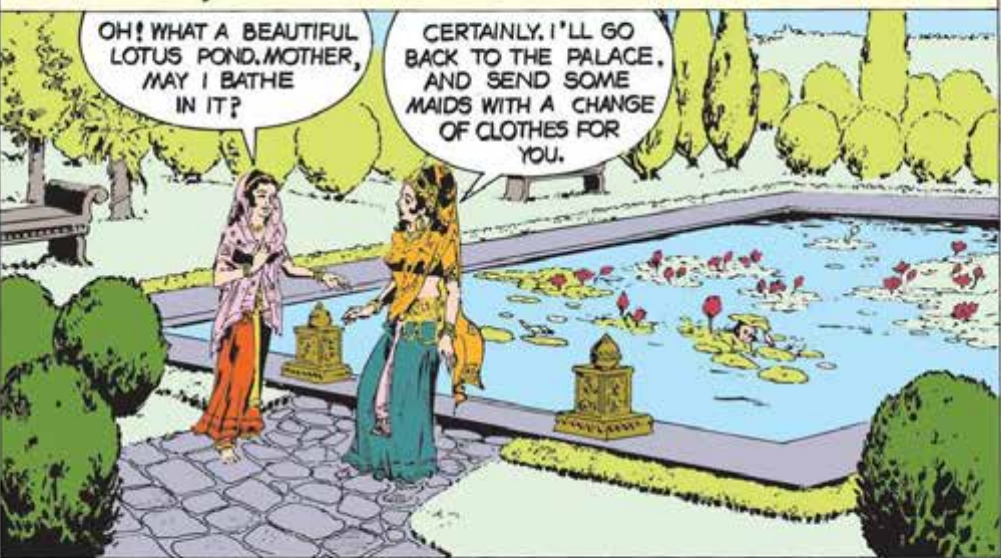
WHAT IS THAT HIDEOUS ONE KING KUSHA!

AH! ISN'T THAT PRABHAVATI'S NURSE? SHE IS HERE TO SPY ON ME.





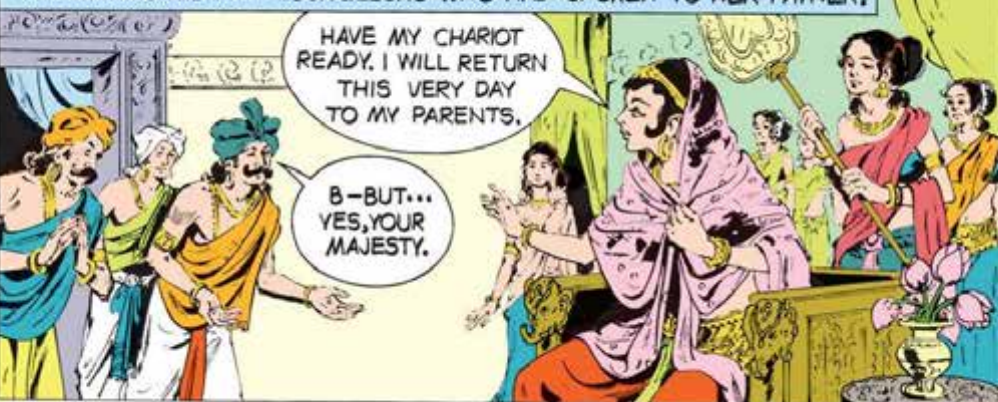
A LITTLE LATER, SHEELAVATI BROUGHT PRABHAVATI TO THE GARDEN.



WHEN SHE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, SHE FOUND HERSELF IN HER CHAMBER SURROUNDED BY HER NURSE AND HER MAIDS.



SHE SUMMONED THE COUNCILLORS WHO HAD SPOKEN TO HER FATHER.



NOT KNOWING WHAT TO DO, THEY WENT AND CONSULTED KUSHA.



THOUGH KUSHA SO KIND-HEARTEDLY LET PRABHAVATI GO, HE WAS DESOLATE. TWO DAYS LATER —

BY THIS TIME SHE WILL HAVE REACHED SAGALA.



HE WENT TO HIS MOTHER.

MOTHER, I WILL GO AND BRING PRABHAVATI BACK, WITH HER CONSENT.

GO, MY SON. BUT TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.



EQUIPPING HIMSELF WITH ALL THAT HE WOULD NEED, KUSHA SET OUT FOR SAGALA.

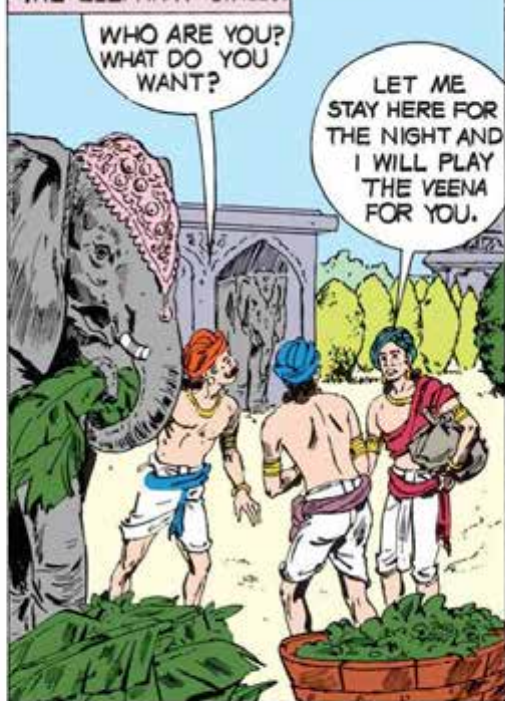
I WILL NOT REST TILL I WIN HER LOVE.



WHEN HE REACHED SAGALA, HE ENTERED THE PALACE AND FOUND HIS WAY TO THE ELEPHANT STALLS.

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

LET ME STAY HERE FOR THE NIGHT AND I WILL PLAY THE VEENA FOR YOU.



THEY AGREED. KUSHA TUNED HIS VEENA AND BEGAN TO PLAY.



IN THE PALACE, PRABHAVATI SUDDENLY WOKE UP.



EARLY NEXT MORNING, KUSHA WOKE UP.

I MUST NOW TRY TO MEET PRABHAVATI WITHOUT LETTING ANYONE KNOW WHO I AM.



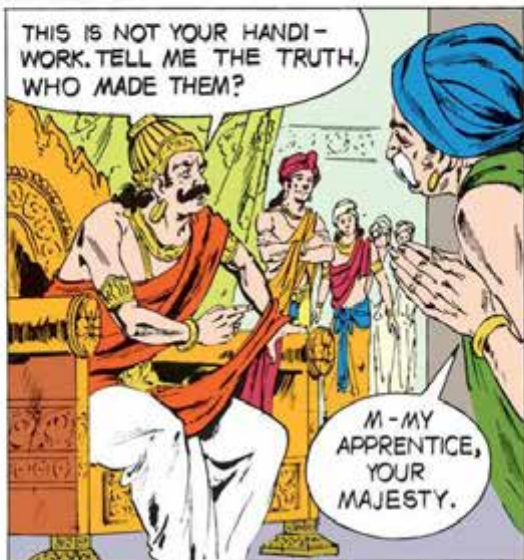
HE WENT TO THE ROYAL POTTER AND BECAME HIS APPRENTICE. A FEW DAYS LATER—

WHY, MY SON, YOU ARE TALENTED! THESE VASES ARE BEAUTIFUL! I SHALL TAKE THEM TO THE PALACE RIGHT AWAY.

MASTER, DO NOT FORGET. THIS ONE WITH THESE FIGURES IS FOR PRINCESS PRABHAVATI. I MADE IT SPECIALLY FOR HER.



AT THE PALACE —



THE POTTER CAME UP TO PRABHAVATI.

THIS HE MADE
SPECIALLY
FOR YOU,
O PRINCESS
PRABHAVATI.

WHY, THESE
FIGURES...! THEY
RESEMBLE ME AND
MY NURSE... ONLY
HE COULD HAVE
MADE THESE!

SHE BECAME TERRIBLY ANGRY AND FLUNG THE VASE TO THE FLOOR.

I DON'T WANT IT.
IT'S HIDEOUS.

HA! HA! OUR
SISTER BEHAVES
AS IF IT WERE
A GIFT FROM
KING KUSHA
HIMSELF.

THE POTTER RETURNED AND TOLD KUSHA ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED AT THE PALACE.

... BUT THE KING
CERTAINLY LIKED
YOUR WORK. HERE,
THESE GOLD COINS
ARE A GIFT TO
YOU FROM HIM.

YOU MAY
KEEP THE
MONEY.

IT'S NO USE MY
STAYING HERE.
I'D BETTER TRY
FROM ELSEWHERE.

KUSHA LEFT THE POTTER AND APPRENTICED HIMSELF TO THE ROYAL WICKER-
WORKER. A FEW DAYS LATER—

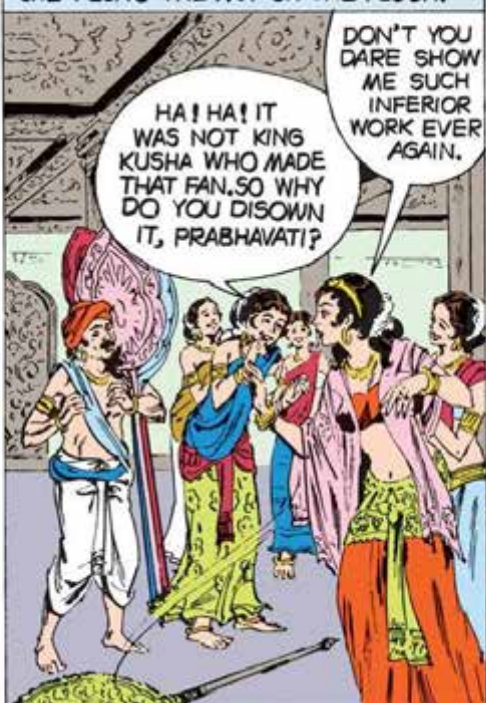


THE MOMENT PRABHAVATI SAW THE FAN, HOWEVER—



THIS, TOO, IS HIS HANDI-WORK. WHY DOES HE PURSUE ME?

SHE FLUNG THE FAN ON THE FLOOR.



HA! HA! IT WAS NOT KING KUSHA WHO MADE THAT FAN, SO WHY DO YOU DISOWN IT, PRABHAVATI?

DON'T YOU DARE SHOW ME SUCH INFERIOR WORK EVER AGAIN.

THE WICKER-WORKER RETURNED, AND TOLD KUSHA ALL THAT HAPPENED AT THE PALACE.

...WOMEN ARE STRANGE. I DON'T KNOW WHY SHE THREW IT ON THE FLOOR IN A RAGE.



KUSHA KNEW.

I WILL HAVE TO TRY SOME OTHER MEANS TO MEET HER.



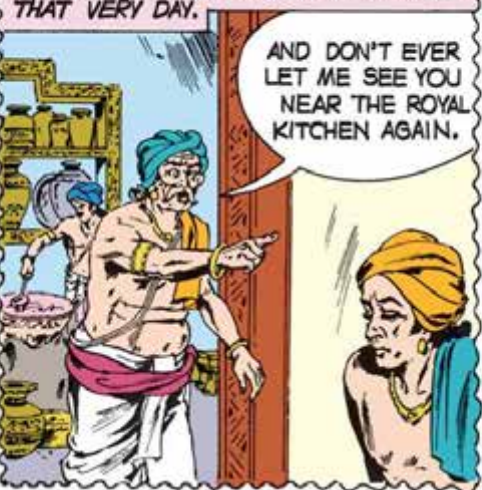
HE PONDERED FOR A WHILE, THEN—

I KNOW WHAT. I SHALL SEEK SERVICE IN THE ROYAL KITCHEN. PERHAPS...



KUSHA WAS LUCKY. THE ROYAL COOK HAD SACKED ONE OF HIS ASSISTANTS THAT VERY DAY.

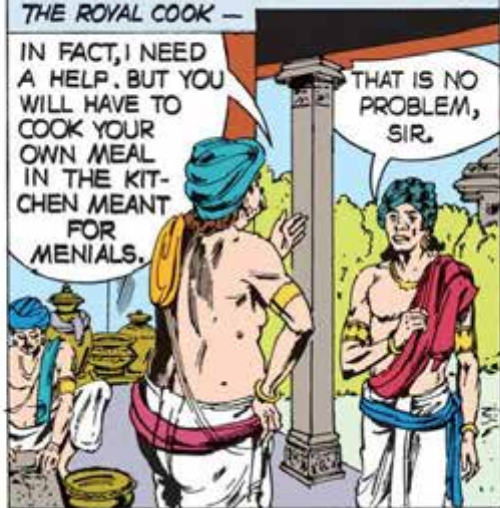
AND DON'T EVER LET ME SEE YOU NEAR THE ROYAL KITCHEN AGAIN.



SO THE MOMENT KUSHA APPROACHED THE ROYAL COOK —

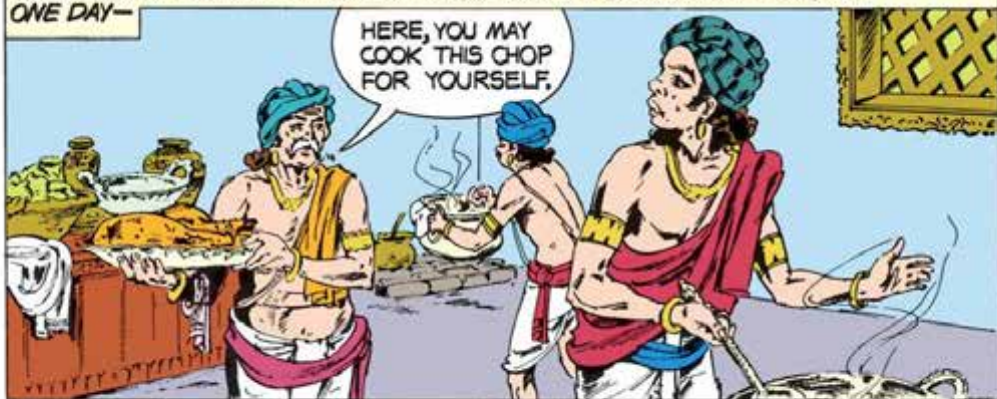
IN FACT, I NEED A HELP. BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO COOK YOUR OWN MEAL IN THE KITCHEN MEANT FOR MENIALS.

THAT IS NO PROBLEM, SIR.

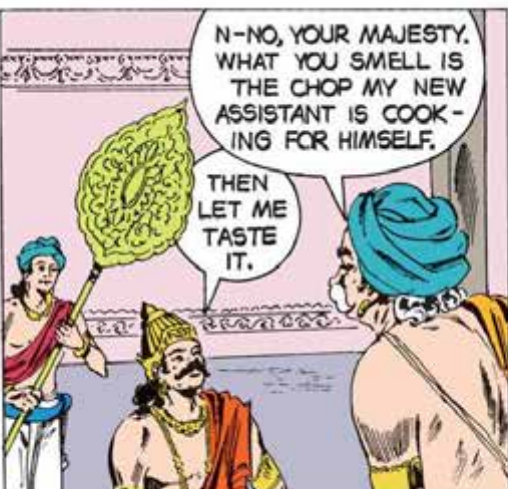


KUSHA SOON BECAME AN EXPERT COOK— BETTER EVEN THAN HIS MASTER. ONE DAY—

HERE, YOU MAY COOK THIS QHOP FOR YOURSELF.



AN HOUR LATER, AS THE KING WAS BEING SERVED—



AFTER THE KING HAD TASTED IT—

HENCEFORTH YOUR ASSISTANT SHALL COOK FOR ME AND MY DAUGHTERS AH! AND GIVE HIM THESE GOLD COINS.



KUSHA WAS EXTREMELY HAPPY WHEN HE HEARD ABOUT THE KING'S ORDER.



THE NEXT DAY—



I FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.
YET I MUST NOT LET
HIM KNOW THAT I
DO OR HE WILL
STAY ON, THINKING
I'VE YIELDED.



KUSHA, I CAN'T BEAR
THE SIGHT OF YOUR
UGLY FACE. GO BACK
TO KUSHAVATI. IT IS
NOT RIGHT FOR
YOU TO WASTE
YOUR TIME HERE.

I AM NOT GOING BACK
WITHOUT YOU. I WANT
YOUR LOVE AND NOT
THE THRONE. I WOULD
GLADLY GIVE UP CROWN
AND THRONE TO
LIVE NEAR YOU.

WHEN PRABHAVATI HEARD THIS SHE WAS ALARMED.



SUPPOSE HE DECLARES
"I AM KING KUSHA" AND
SEIZES MY HAND. NO
ONE WILL STOP HIM.
BESIDES, SOMEONE
MIGHT OVERHEAR
OUR TALK.

TO DISCOURAGE ANY FURTHER DIALOGUE, SHE CLOSED THE DOOR AND BOLTED IT.



KUSHA GAZED FOR A MOMENT AT THE CLOSED DOOR, AND THEN WENT DOWN.



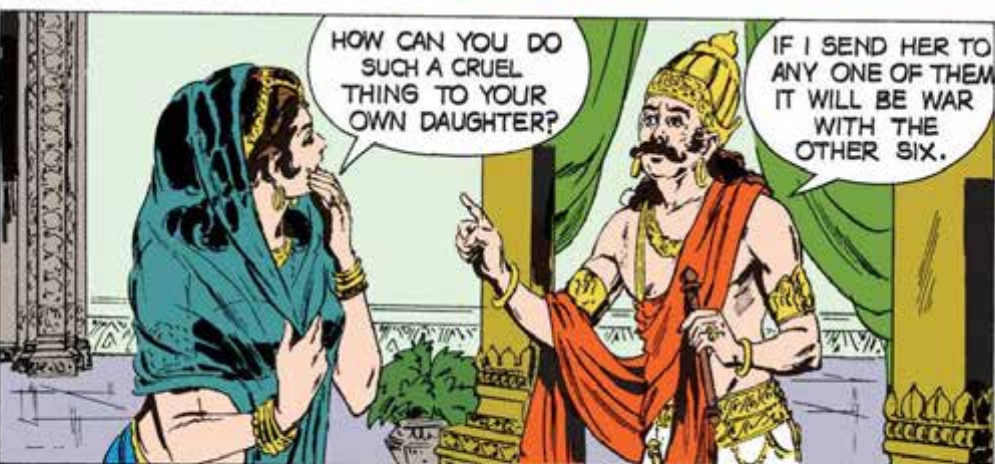
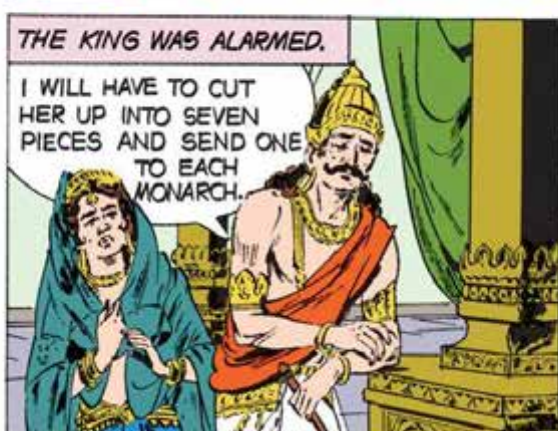
BUT SEVEN LONG MONTHS PASSED AND KUSHA TOILED ON. AT LAST—

IN SEVEN MONTHS, SHE HAS NOT SO MUCH AS LET ME HAVE A GLIMPSE OF HER. WHY DO I PINE FOR HER? SHE IS HARSH AND CRUEL. I WILL RETURN TO MY KINGDOM AND MY PARENTS.



AT THAT MOMENT, REALISING HOW DISAPPOINTED KUSHA WAS, INDRA DECIDED TO HELP HIM.







WHEN PRABHAVATI HEARD OF HER FATHER'S
DECISION, SHE WAS TERRIFIED.



SHE RAN TO HER MOTHER'S CHAMBER.



PRABHAVATI LED HER MOTHER TO THE KITCHEN.

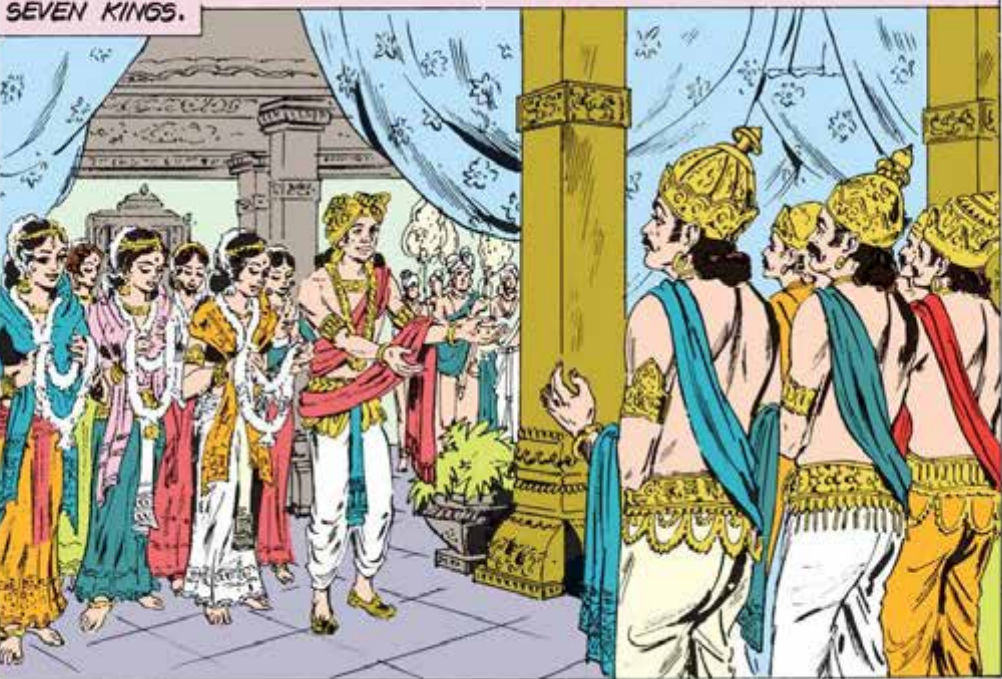
LOOK! THERE HE IS—
IN THE GUISE OF A
COOK. HE CAME
HERE FOR MY SAKE.



SHE RAN FORWARD AND FELL AT KUSHA'S FEET.



KUSHA SETTLED MATTERS BY OFFERING HIS SEVEN SISTERS-IN-LAW TO THE SEVEN KINGS.



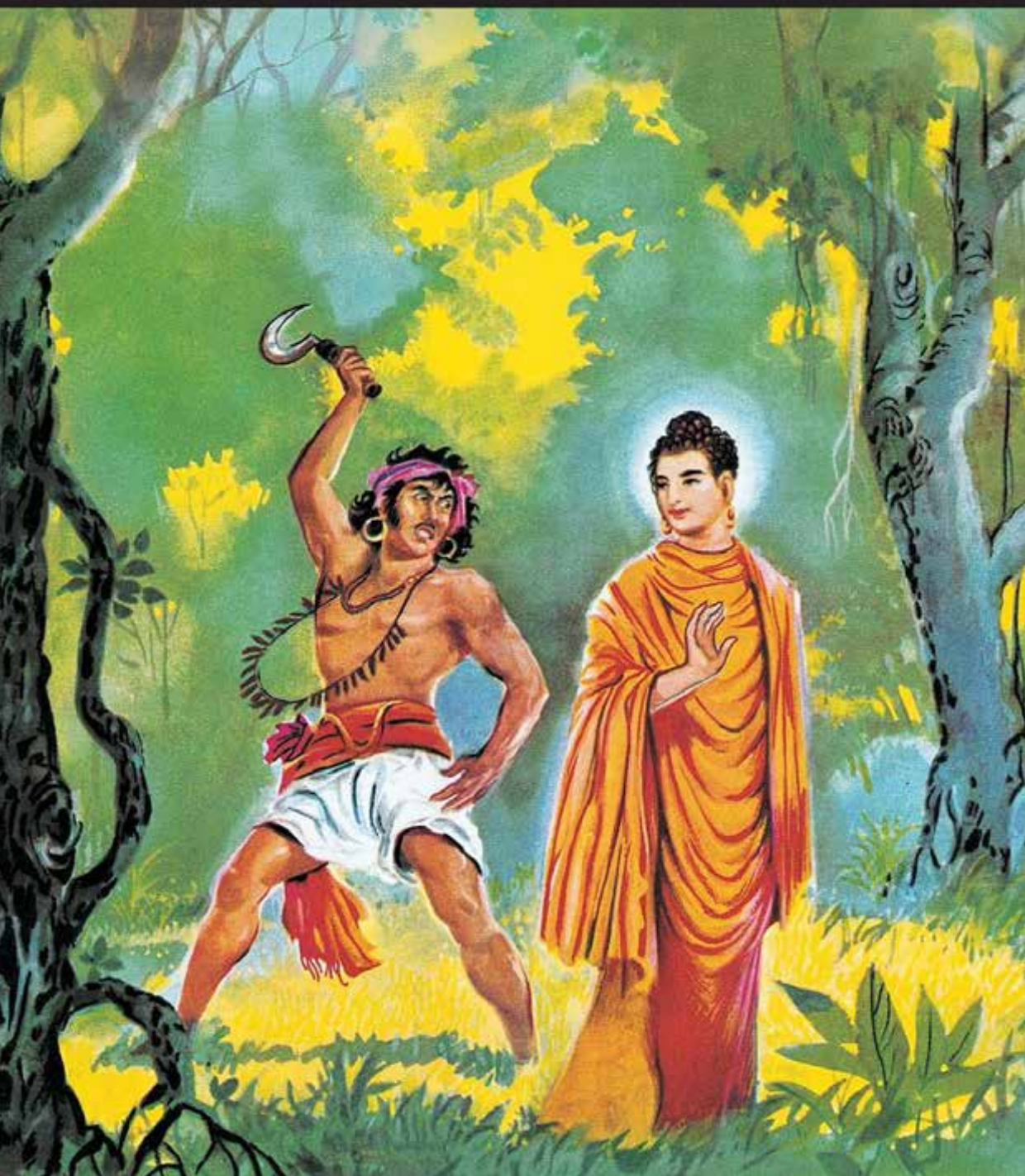
THEN HE AND PRABHAVATI WENT TO KUSHAVATI WHERE THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.



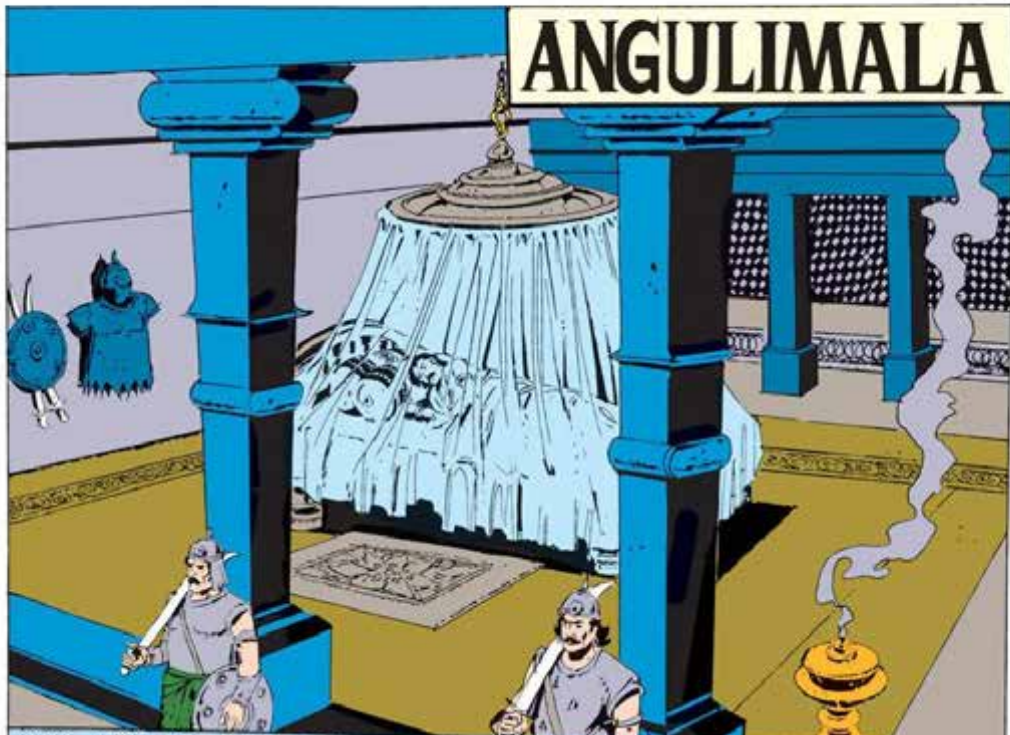


ANGULIMALA

THE BANDIT WHO TOOK REFUGE IN BUDDHA



ANGULIMALA



LONG, LONG AGO, A KING CALLED PRASENAJIT RULED OVER KOSALA* FROM HIS CAPITAL, SHRAVASTI. ONE NIGHT WHEN HE WAS FAST ASLEEP...

...THE ROOM WAS SUDDENLY LIT BY FLASHES OF LIGHT. HE WOKE UP WITH A START.

WHO-WHAT'S THAT? THE WEAPONS! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO THEM? WHY DO THEY GLITTER SO?



* PART OF MODERN U.P.

THE NEXT MOMENT HOWEVER ALL WAS DARK AGAIN.

WAS IT A NIGHTMARE?
WAS MY IMAGINATION
PLAYING TRICKS ON ME?
OR WAS I REALLY DAZZLED
BY THE LIGHT FROM
THE WEAPONS?

THE NEXT MORNING, ANY
DOUBTS HE MIGHT HAVE
HAD, VANISHED.

AT MIDNIGHT, THE WEAPONS
IN THE ARMOURY AND IN
EVERY HOUSE
OF KOSALA, BLAZED, FOR
A MOMENT, WITH A
BRILLIANT LIGHT.

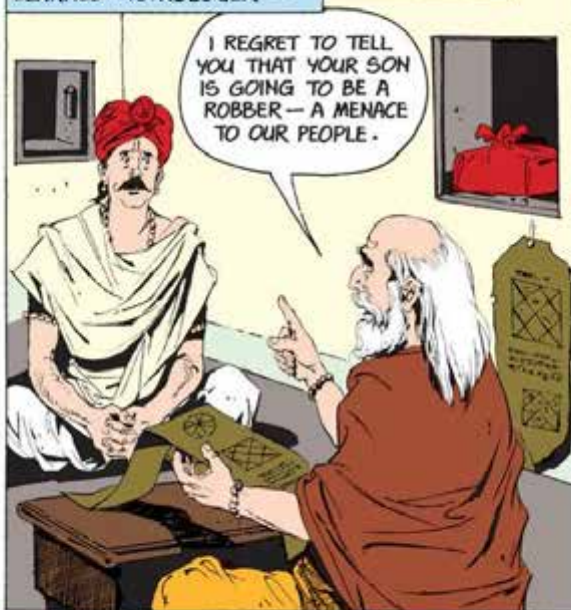
A STRANGE THING
HAPPENED LAST NIGHT,
YOUR MAJESTY!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE HOUSE OF THE
ROYAL PRIEST, GARGA —

HOW HANDSOME
IS OUR
NEW-BORN SON!

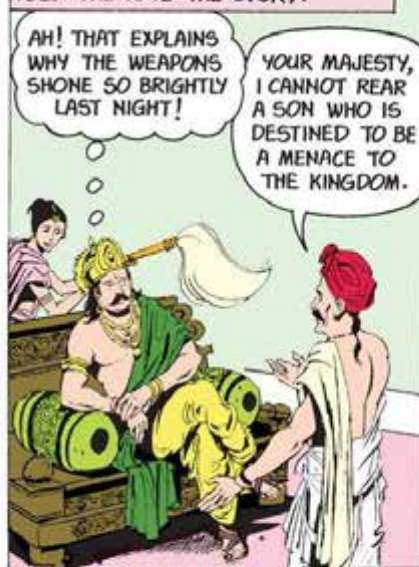
HE IS, NO DOUBT. BUT I AM
WORRIED. IMMEDIATELY
AFTER HIS BIRTH, STRANGE
LIGHTS ISSUED FORTH
FROM THE WEAPONS OF
THE NIGHT-GUARDS.

WHEN THE PERTURBED GARGA CONSULTED A
LEARNED ASTROLOGER —



I REGRET TO TELL
YOU THAT YOUR SON
IS GOING TO BE A
ROBBER — A MENACE
TO OUR PEOPLE.

GARGA WENT TO THE PALACE AND
TOLD THE KING THE STORY.



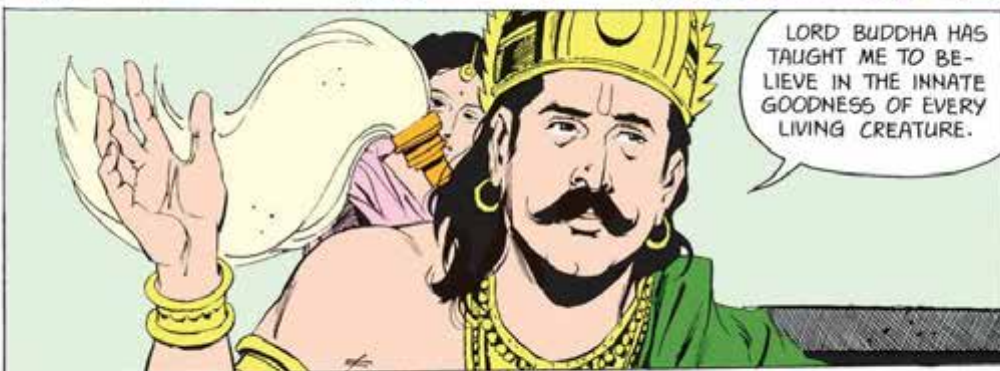
AH! THAT EXPLAINS
WHY THE WEAPONS
SHONE SO BRIGHTLY
LAST NIGHT!

YOUR MAJESTY,
I CANNOT REAR
A SON WHO IS
DESTINED TO BE
A MENACE TO
THE KINGDOM.

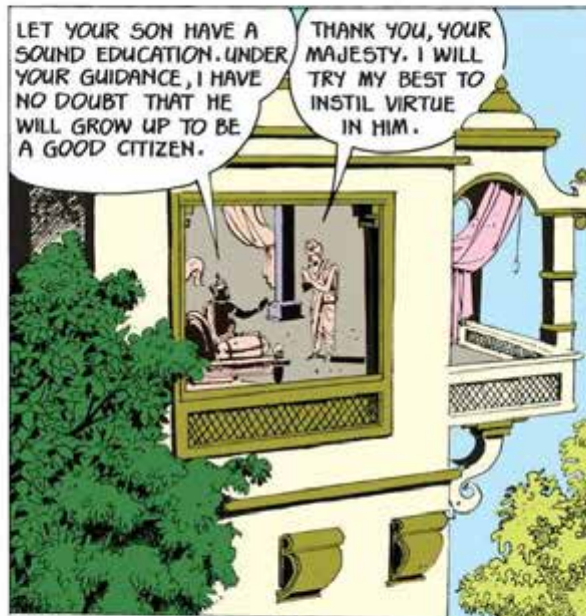


THE SCRIPTURES SAY
THAT ONE LIFE MAY BE
SACRIFICED TO SAVE A
HUNDRED. THEREFORE
PERMIT ME TO PUT
HIM TO DEATH.

NO! I WON'T
ALLOW THE
KILLING OF
AN INNOCENT
BABY!



LORD BUDDHA HAS
TAUGHT ME TO BE-
LIEVE IN THE INNATE
GOODNESS OF EVERY
LIVING CREATURE.

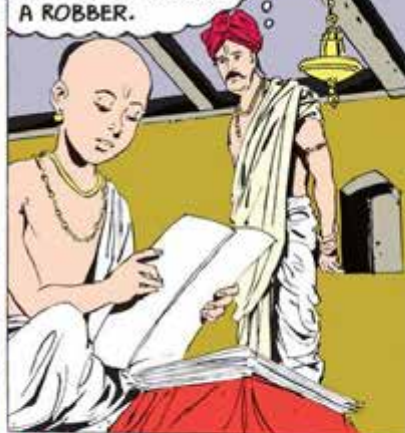


LET YOUR SON HAVE A SOUND EDUCATION. UNDER YOUR GUIDANCE, I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT HE WILL GROW UP TO BE A GOOD CITIZEN.

THANK YOU, YOUR MAJESTY. I WILL TRY MY BEST TO INSTIL VIRTUE IN HIM.

THE INFANT WHO WAS NAMED AHIMSAKA, GREW UP TO BE AN INTELLIGENT BOY.

ONE AS DEDICATED AS HE IS TO THE STUDY OF THE SCRIPTURES, CAN NEVER BECOME A ROBBER.



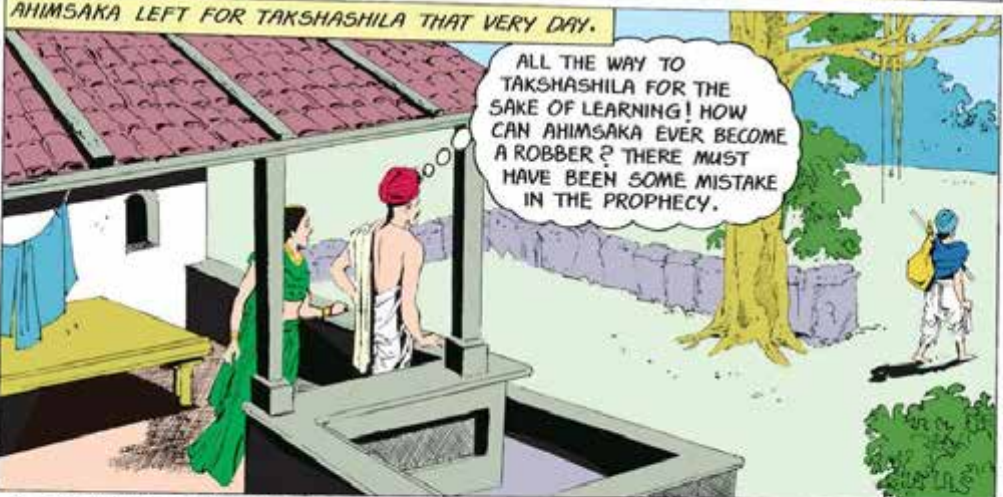
THEN, WHEN AHIMSAKA WAS ABOUT FOURTEEN YEARS OLD—

FATHER, PLEASE PERMIT ME TO GO TO TAKSHASHILA*.



YOU MAY GO, MY SON. YOU HAVE MY BLESSINGS.

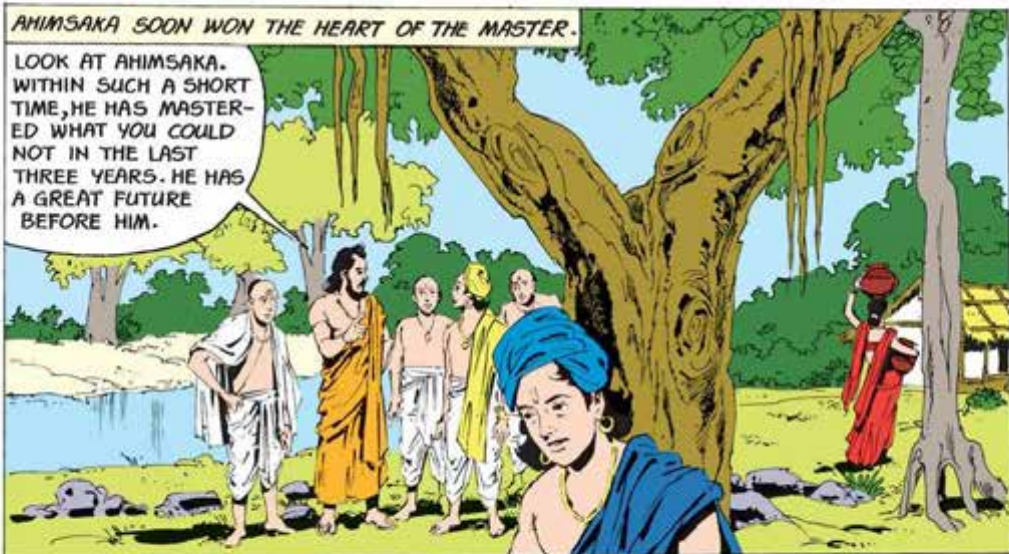
AHIMSAKA LEFT FOR TAKSHASHILA THAT VERY DAY.



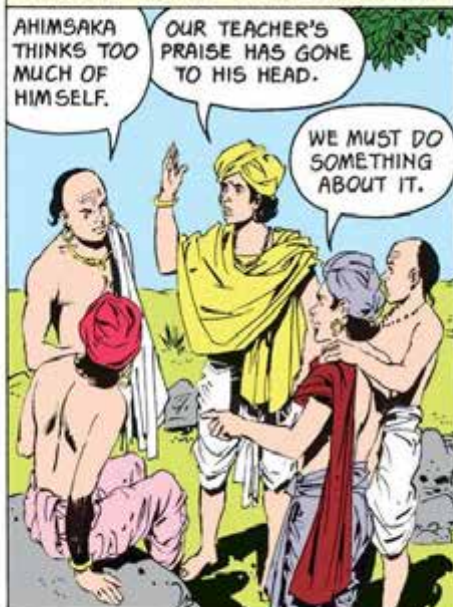
ALL THE WAY TO TAKSHASHILA FOR THE SAKE OF LEARNING! HOW CAN AHIMSAKA EVER BECOME A ROBBER? THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOME MISTAKE IN THE PROPHECY.

* A RENOWNED CENTRE OF LEARNING

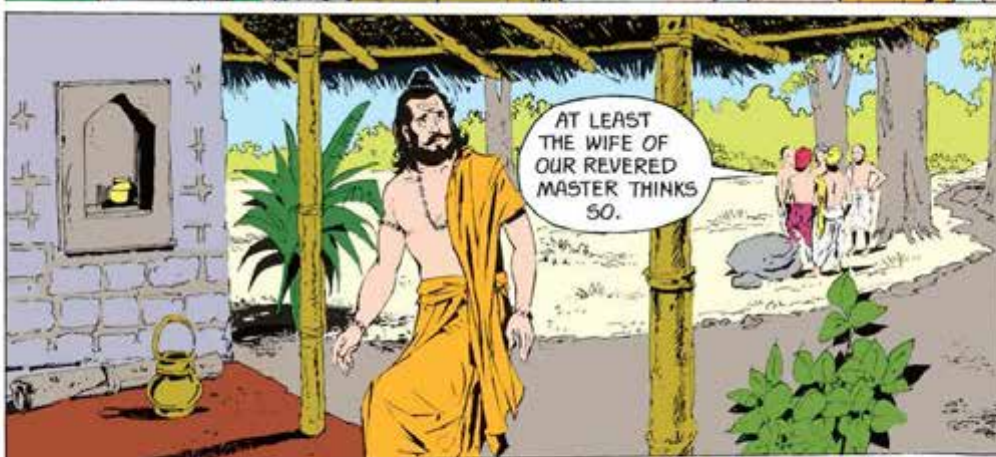
ON REACHING TAKSHASHILA, AHIMSAKA WENT TO A GREAT SCHOLAR OF THOSE DAYS.



SUCH COMMENTS AROUSED THE JEALOUSY OF THE OTHER DISCIPLES.

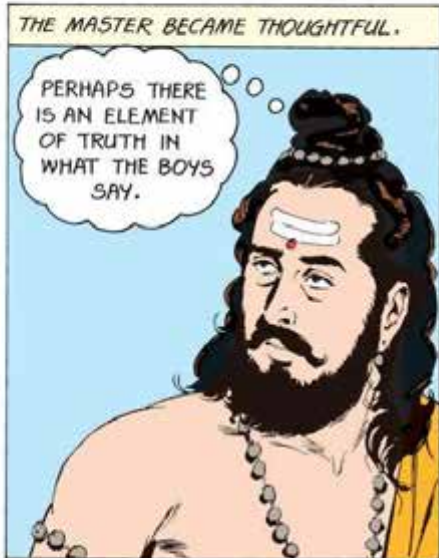


THEY HATCHED A PLOT TO ESTRANGE THE MASTER FROM HIS FAVOURITE DISCIPLE.

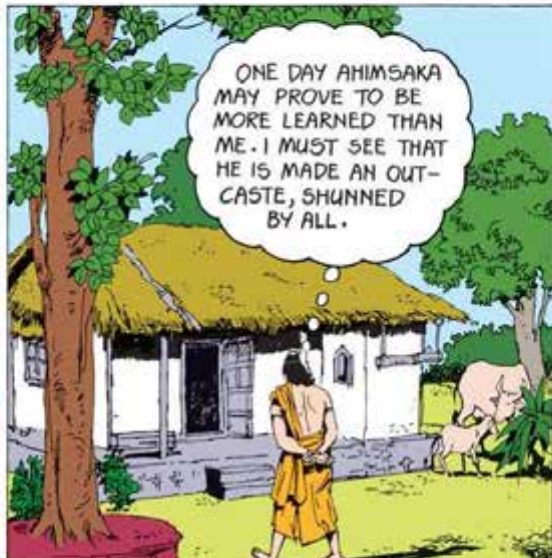


THE MASTER BECAME THOUGHTFUL.

PERHAPS THERE
IS AN ELEMENT
OF TRUTH IN
WHAT THE BOYS
SAY.



ONE DAY AHIMSAKA
MAY PROVE TO BE
MORE LEARNED THAN
ME. I MUST SEE THAT
HE IS MADE AN OUT-
CASTE, SHUNNED
BY ALL.

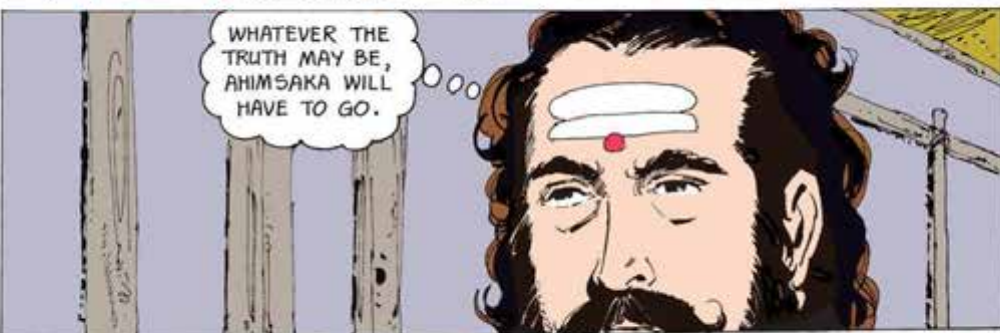


WHEN HE ENTERED THE HOUSE —

DOES MY WIFE REALLY THINK
HE IS A GREATER SCHOLAR
THAN ME? HOW ATTENTIVELY
SHE LISTENS TO WHAT HE
SAYS! DOES SHE HAVE A
GREATER REGARD FOR HIM
THAN SHE HAS FOR ME?



WHATEVER THE
TRUTH MAY BE,
AHIMSAKA WILL
HAVE TO GO.



HE ENTERED THE HALL STEALTHILY SO THAT HIS WIFE AND AHIMSAKA, DEEPLY ENGROSSSED IN THEIR DISCUSSIONS, WOULD NOT NOTICE HIS PRESENCE.



I HAVE BEEN STANDING HERE ALL THIS WHILE. HAVE YOU BECOME SO ARROGANT THAT YOU FORGET TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE PRESENCE OF YOUR GURU ?

PARDON ME, MASTER. I...

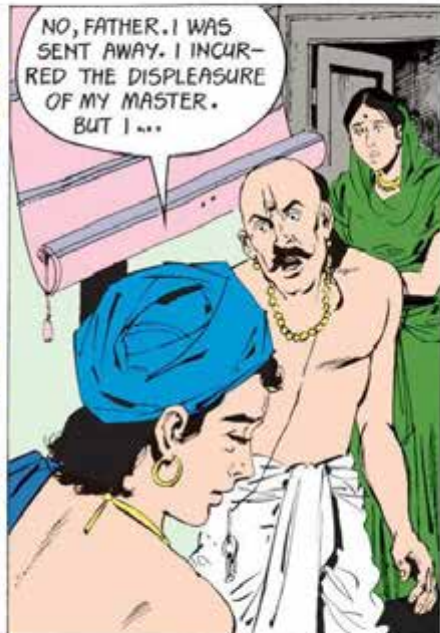
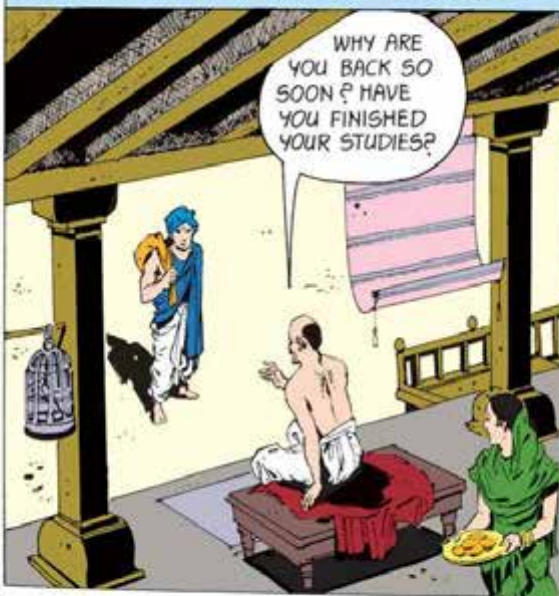


HUMILITY SHOULD BE THE OUTCOME OF KNOWLEDGE, NOT ARROGANCE. YOU HAVE NO PLACE HERE. YOU MAY GO.



AS A BEMUSED AHIMSAKA WALKED AWAY FROM THE MASTER'S HOUSE, THE OTHER DISCIPLES GLOATED OVER THE SUCCESS OF THEIR PLOT.

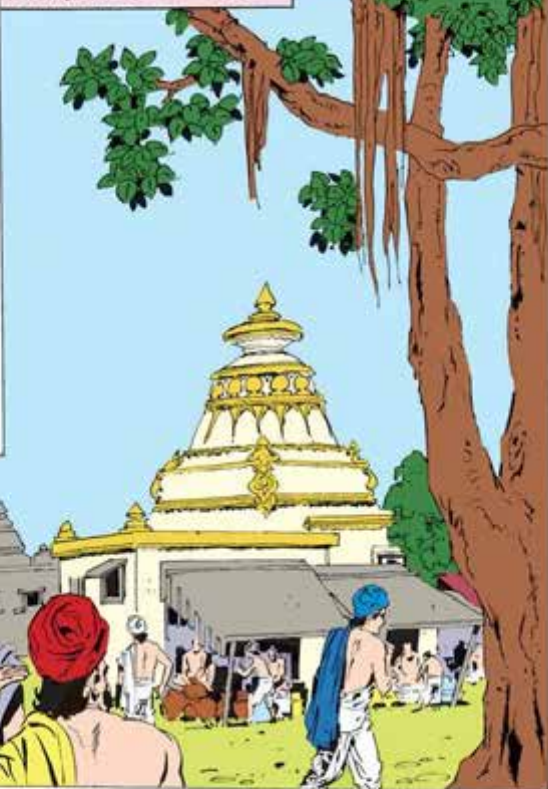




I WILL TRY TO
MAKE A LIVING WITH
WHAT LITTLE KNOW-
LEDGE I HAVE.



BUT AHIMSAKA'S EFFORTS TO FIND SOME
WORK PROVED FUTILE.



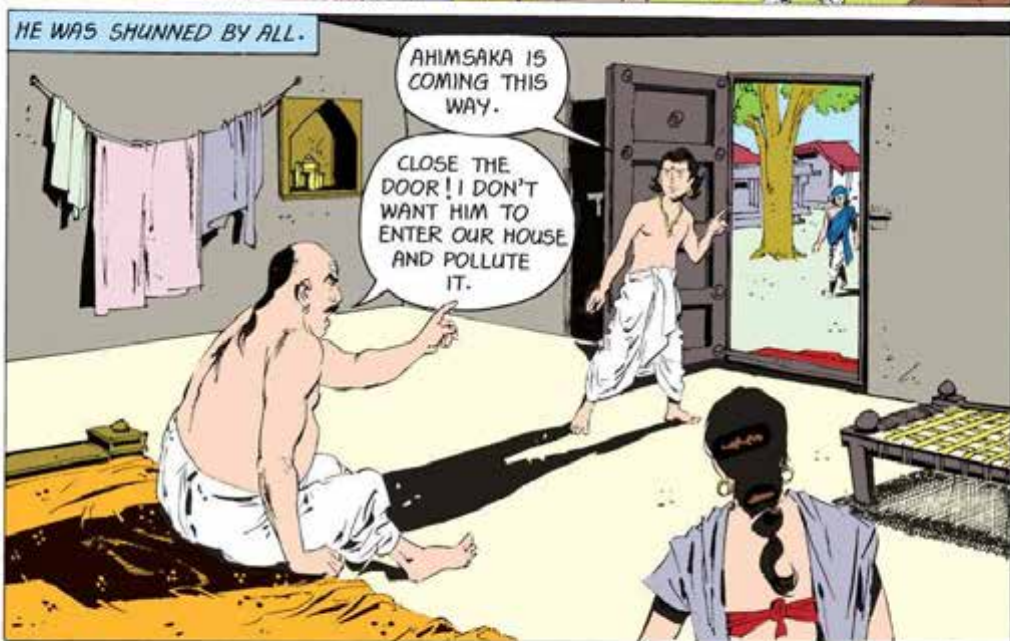
EMPLOY A
YOUTH WHO
HAS INCURRED
THE DISPLEASURE
OF HIS MASTER?
NEVER!



HE WAS SHUNNED BY ALL.

AHIMSAKA IS
COMING THIS
WAY.

CLOSE THE
DOOR!! I DON'T
WANT HIM TO
ENTER OUR HOUSE
AND POLLUTE
IT.





DEEP IN THOUGHT, AHIMSAKA LEFT KOSALA.





DISGUSTED, AHMSAKA LET HIM GO.

HE HAS SHOWN ME THE WAY. I WILL BE A HIGHWAY ROBBER. I'LL BE MAKING A LIVING WHILE I TAKE REVENGE ON THE SOCIETY THAT REJECTED ME.



LATER, IN THE EVENING, A FLEET OF BULLOCK CARTS CARRYING MERCHANDISE PASSED THAT WAY ON THEIR WAY TO KAUSHAMBI.



HE IS ONE,
WE ARE MANY.
LET US CAPTURE
HIM!

BUT THE MERCHANTS WERE NO MATCH FOR AHIMSAKA.

A colorful illustration depicting a scene of violence. In the foreground, a man in a pink dhoti lies on the ground, having been struck by a man in a blue dhoti who is holding a long wooden staff. Another man in a yellow dhoti is being held back by the man in the blue dhoti. In the background, a group of men are attacking a group of people. One man is on horseback, and another is on foot, both holding long wooden staffs. A white bull is also visible in the scene. The scene is set in a rural area with trees and a dirt path.

SOON, AHIMSAKA'S ATROCIOUS DEEDS BECAME THE TALK OF KOSALA.



HE IS A MONSTER.

WHO IS HE?

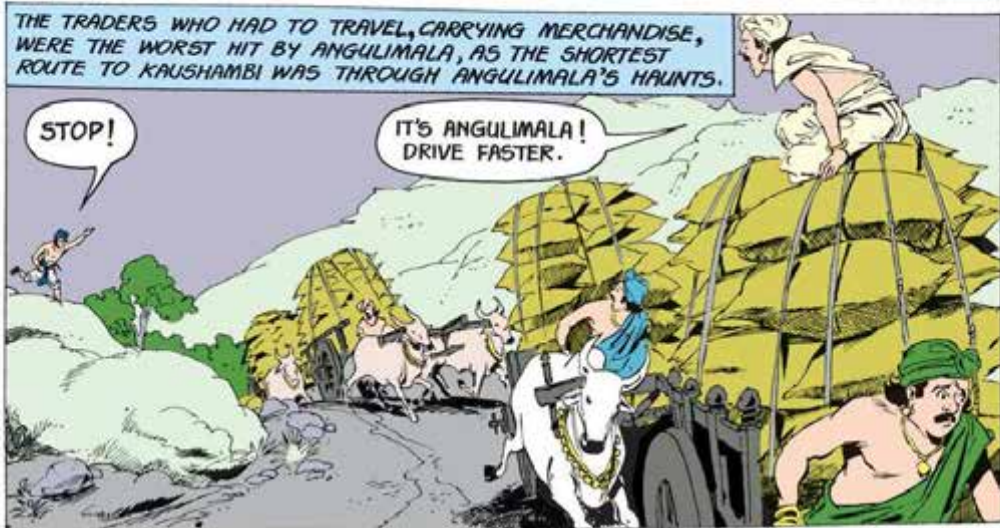
NO ONE KNOWS WHO HE IS NOR WHERE HE COMES FROM.

HE WEARS A STRANGE GARLAND...

SO I'VE HEARD - AN ANGULIMALA!

AND AHIMSAKA BEGAN TO BE KNOWN AS ANGULIMALA.

THE TRADERS WHO HAD TO TRAVEL, CARRYING MERCHANDISE, WERE THE WORST HIT BY ANGULIMALA, AS THE SHORTEST ROUTE TO KAUSHAMBI WAS THROUGH ANGULIMALA'S HAUNTS.

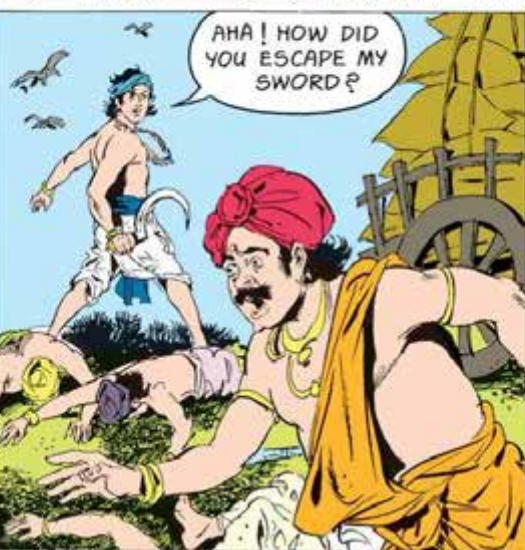


STOP!

IT'S ANGULIMALA! DRIVE FASTER.



HA, HA! THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM ME. GET DOWN ALL OF YOU.



AT LAST THE TERROR-STRICKEN
SUBJECTS TURNED TO PRASENAJIT.

YOUR MAJESTY,
DELIVER US
FROM ANGULI-
MALA.

I WILL COMMAND
MY FOREST GUARDS
TO CAPTURE THE
NOTORIOUS
MURDERER.

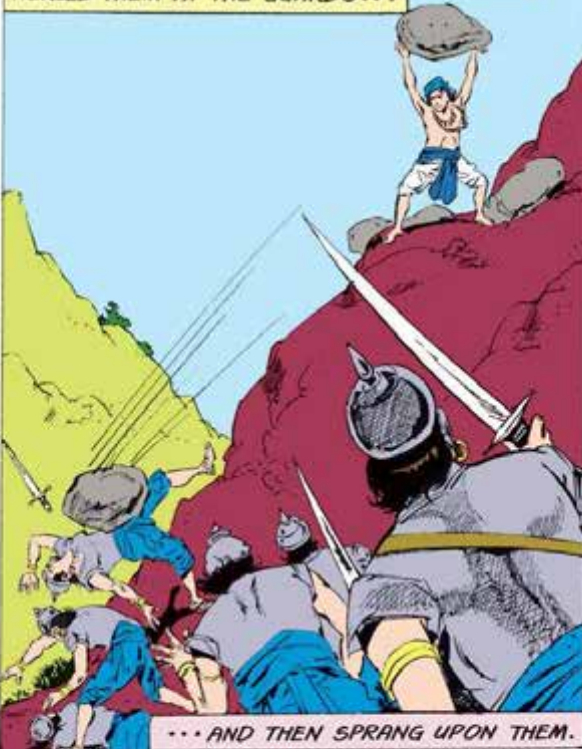


AS THE FOREST GUARDS ENTERED
ANGULIMALA'S HAUNT —

A WHOLE ARMY OF
THEM! GOOD! THAT
MANY MORE FINGERS
FOR MY GARLAND!



LIFTING UP HUGE BOULDERS, ANGULIMALA
HURLED THEM AT THE GUARDS...



... AND THEN SPRANG UPON THEM.

A FEW, HOWEVER, WERE ABLE TO
ESCAPE WITH THEIR LIVES.



WHEN THEY REPORTED TO
PRASENAJIT —

JUST ONE MAN, AND
YOU WERE HELPLESS
AGAINST HIM!



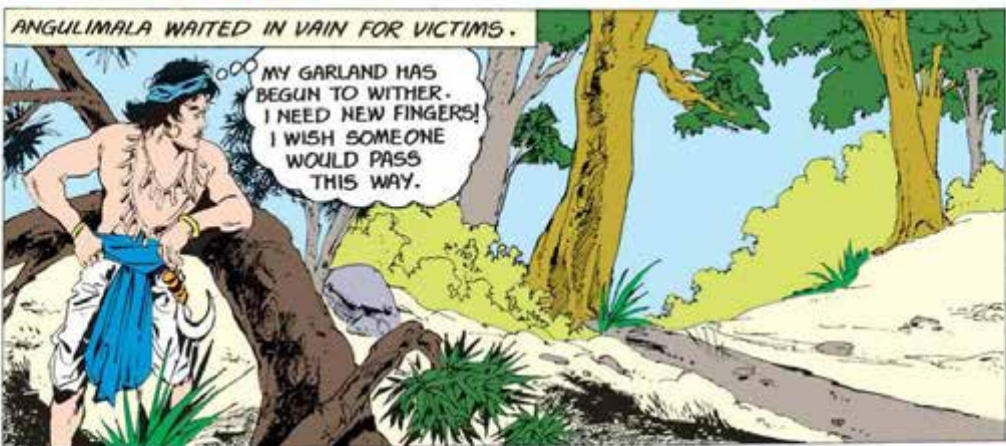
THAT EVENING, THE ROYAL DRUMMER WENT
ROUND THE CITY.

GIVE EAR!
GIVE EAR! PEOPLE
ARE ADVISED TO
AVOID ANGULIMALA.
THOSE GOING TO
KAUSHAMBI SHOULD
TAKE THE ROUTE
VIA MAGADHA...



ANGULIMALA WAITED IN VAIN FOR VICTIMS.

MY GARLAND HAS
BEGUN TO WITHER.
I NEED NEW FINGERS!
I WISH SOMEONE
WOULD PASS
THIS WAY.



SUDDENLY HE SPOTTED A MONK WALKING BY.

MY PRAYER
HAS BEEN
HEARD!

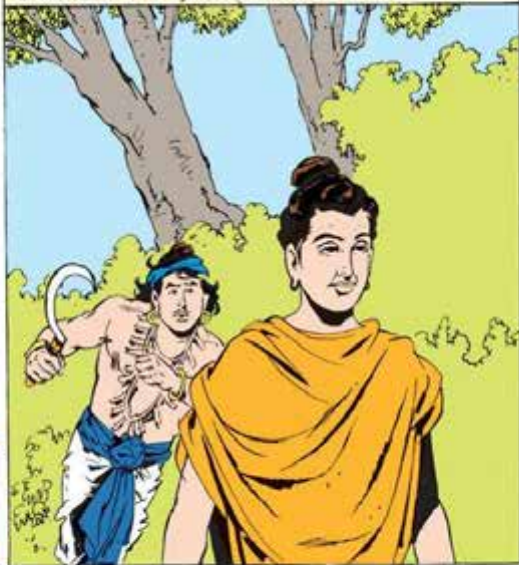
HALT!



ANGULIMALA RAN AFTER THE MONK.



TO HIS ASTONISHMENT, HOWEVER, THE MONK, WHO SEEMED TO BE WALKING AT A LEISURELY PACE, WAS ALWAYS A STEP AHEAD.

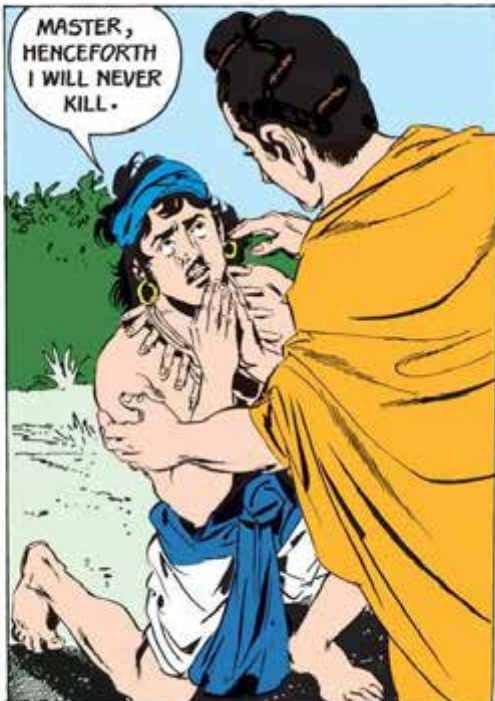


AT LAST EXHAUSTED BY THE CHASE, ANGULIMALA PAUSED.

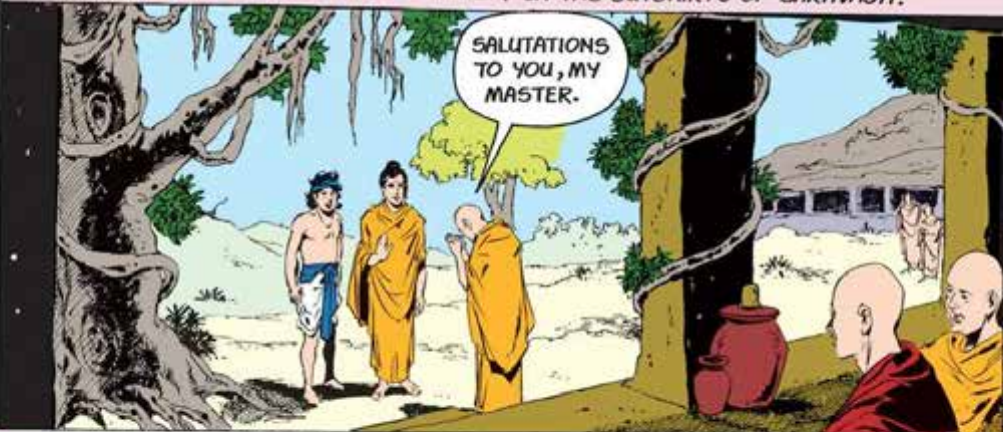




ANGULIMALA COLLAPSED AT THE FEET OF THE MONK.



THE MONK BROUGHT HIM TO THE MONASTERY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF SHRAVASTI.



THE LOVING MONK WAS NONE OTHER THAN LORD BUDDHA.

THE NEXT MORNING, PRASENAJIT VISITED THE MONASTERY. THE KING HAD COME TO PAY HIS RESPECTS TO THE MASTER.



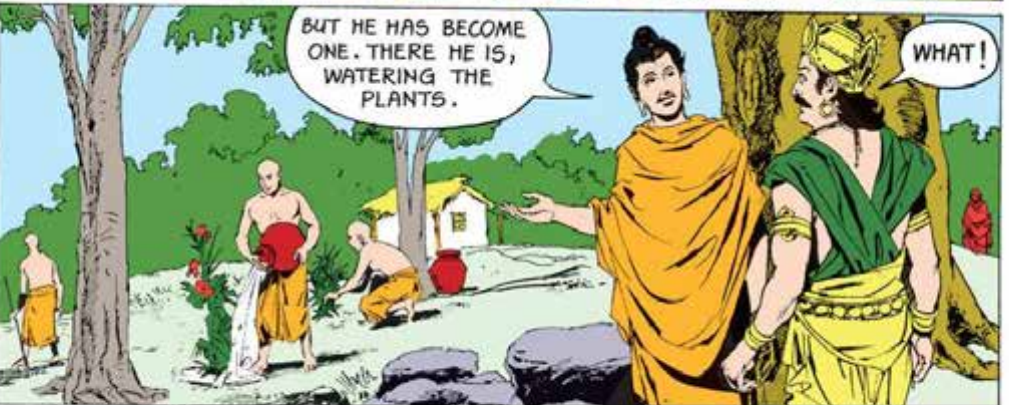
IT LOOKS AS THOUGH YOU HAVE STARTED ON AN EXPEDITION.

YES, MASTER. I WANT TO EXTERMINATE THAT MONSTER—ANGULIMALA. I HAVE COME FOR YOUR BLESSINGS.



SUPPOSING ANGULIMALA GIVES UP THE PATH OF VIOLENCE AND BEGINS TO LIVE THE LIFE OF AN ASCETIC, WHAT WILL YOUR REACTION BE?

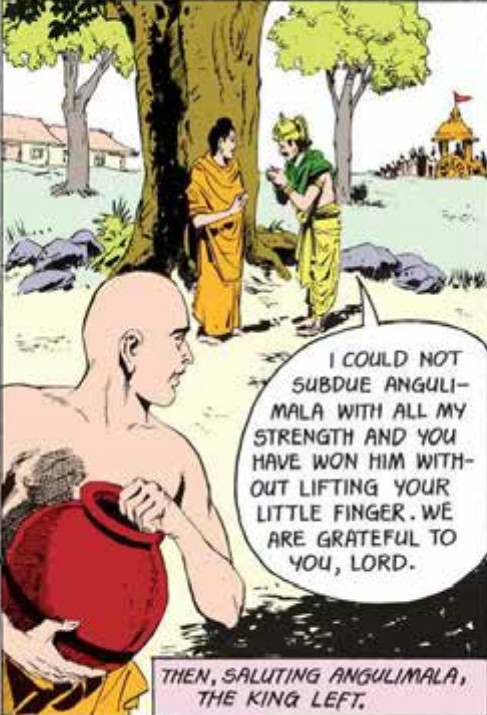
I WILL SALUTE HIM THEN, MY LORD. BUT PARDON ME, I CAN'T IMAGINE ANGULIMALA AS AN ASCETIC.



BUT HE HAS BECOME ONE. THERE HE IS, WATERING THE PLANTS.

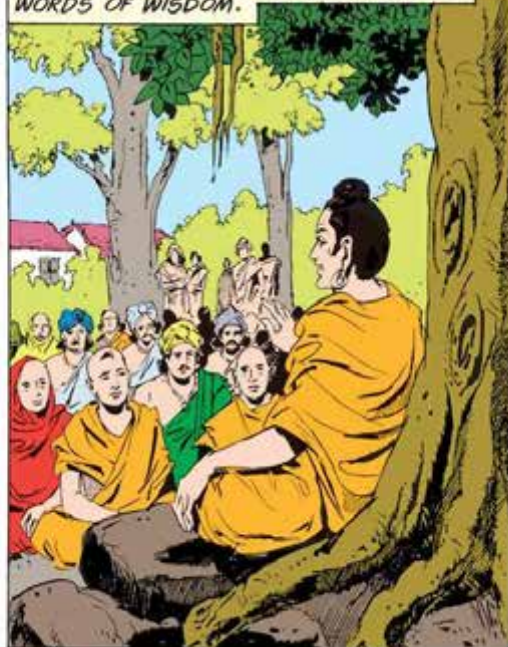
WHAT!

ANGULIMALA BECAME DEVOTED TO BUDDHA. HE LISTENED TO THE MASTER'S WORDS OF WISDOM.



I COULD NOT SUBDUCE ANGULIMALA WITH ALL MY STRENGTH AND YOU HAVE WON HIM WITHOUT LIFTING YOUR LITTLE FINGER. WE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU, LORD.

THEN, SALUTING ANGULIMALA, THE KING LEFT.



HE NURSED THE SICK.

I AM FEELING BETTER NOW, ANGULIMALA. YOU MAY REST.



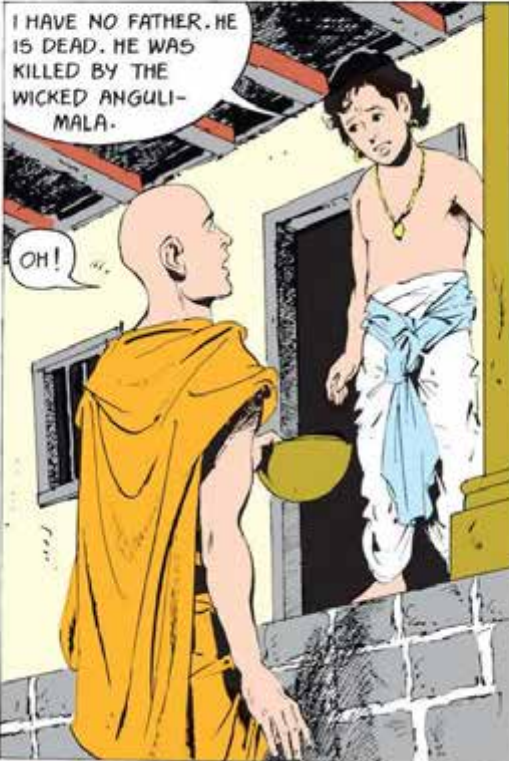
DON'T MIND ME, BROTHER. YOU SLEEP.

ONE DAY WHEN ANGULIMALA WENT TO BEG FOR HIS FOOD.



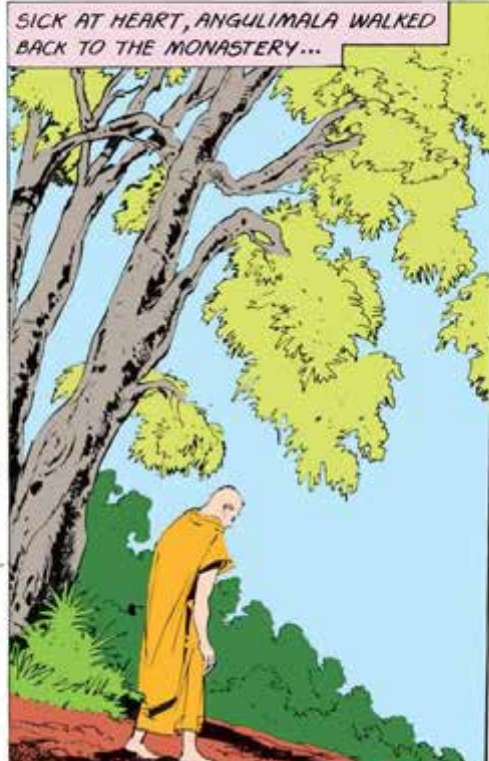
DO YOU WANT MORE RICE?

YOU ARE GENEROUS, MY CHILD. MAY YOU, YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER BE BLESSED.



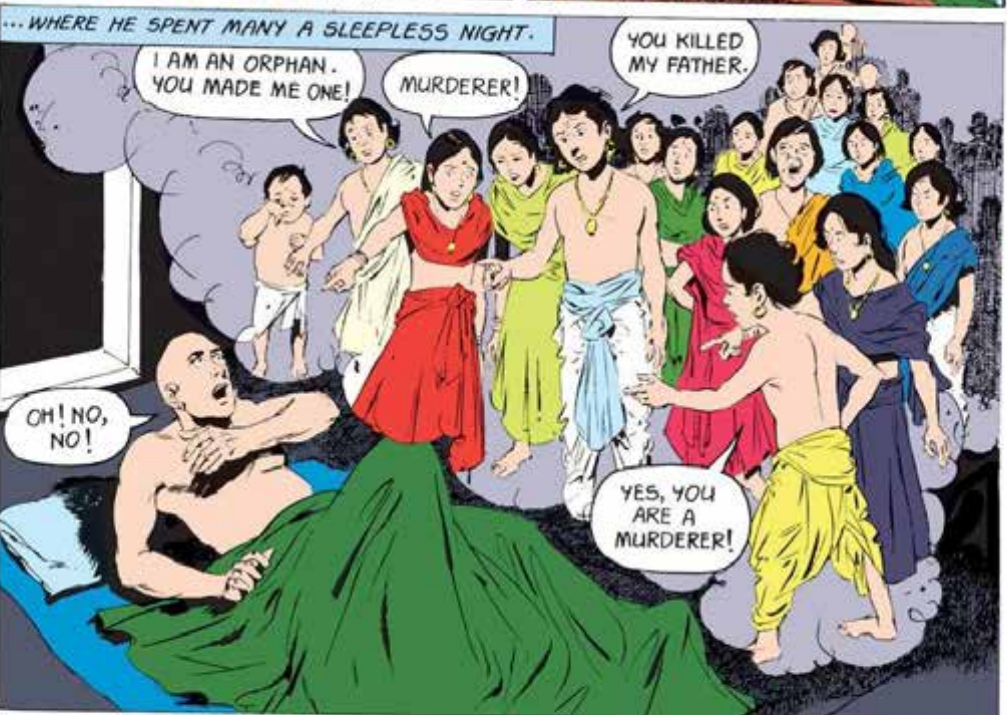
I HAVE NO FATHER. HE IS DEAD. HE WAS KILLED BY THE WICKED ANGULIMALA.

OH!



SICK AT HEART, ANGULIMALA WALKED BACK TO THE MONASTERY...

...WHERE HE SPENT MANY A SLEEPLESS NIGHT.



I AM AN ORPHAN. YOU MADE ME ONE!

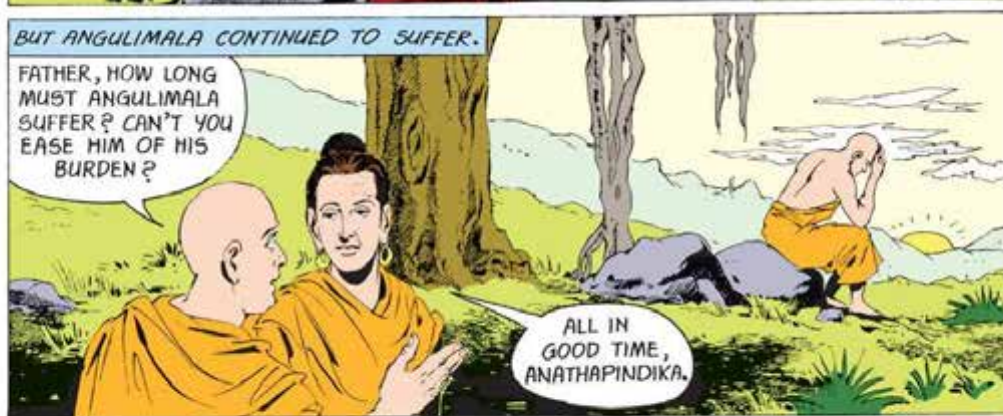
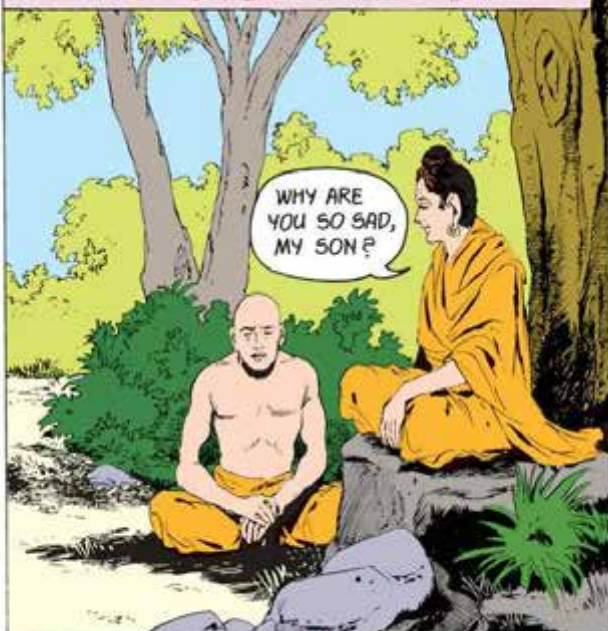
MURDERER!

YOU KILLED MY FATHER.

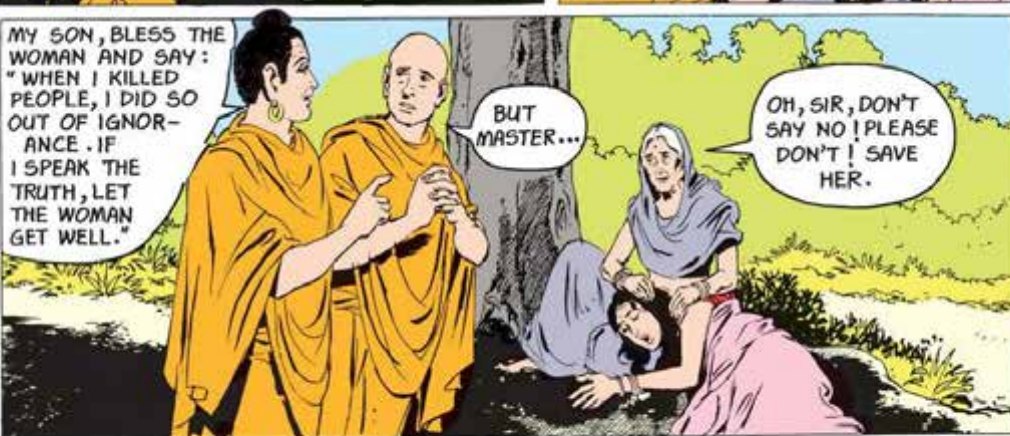
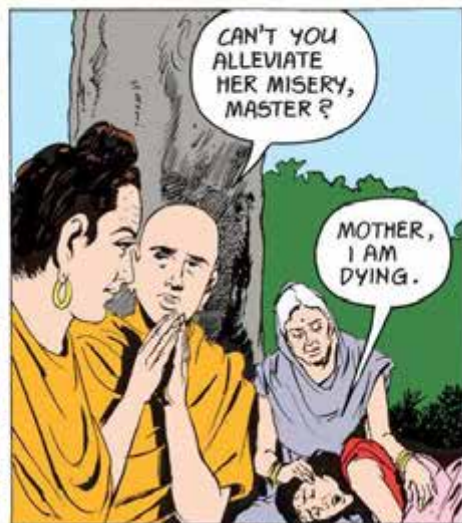
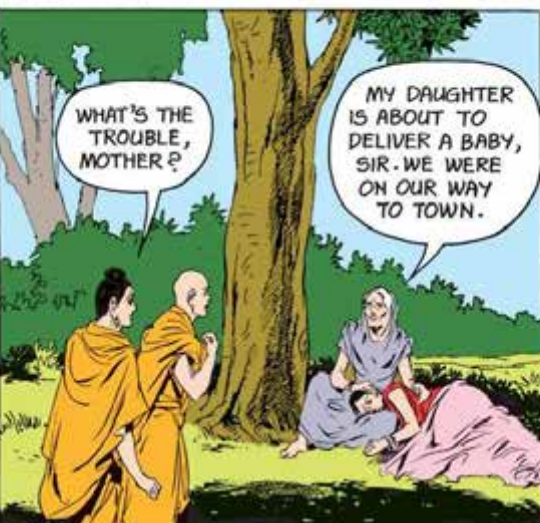
OH! NO, NO!

YES, YOU ARE A MURDERER!

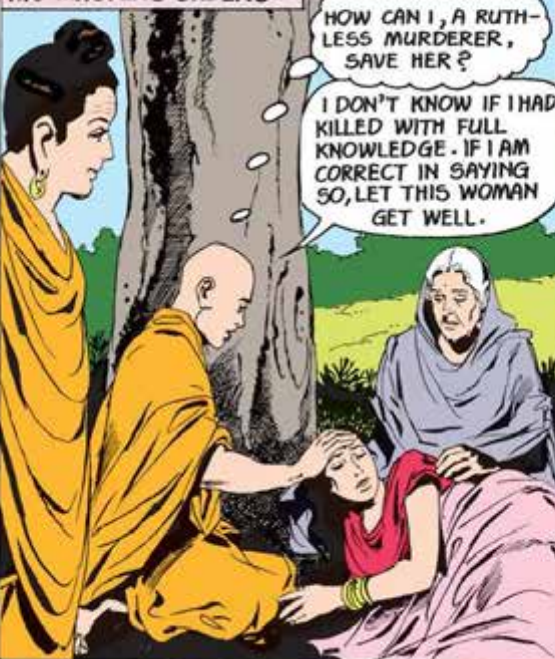
THAT ANGULIMALA HAD SUDDENLY BECOME DESPONDENT DID NOT ESCAPE THE NOTICE OF BUDDHA.



THEN ONE DAY, BUDDHA TOOK ANGULIMALA WITH HIM ON HIS ROUNDS. AS THEY PROCEEDED —



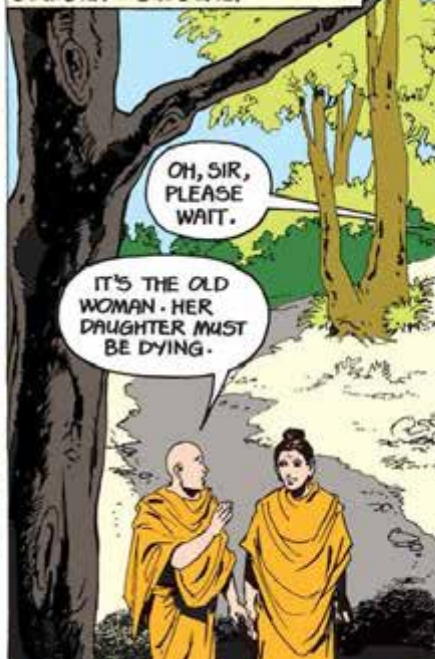
WITH MUCH RELUCTANCE, ANGULIMALA OBEYED HIS MASTER'S ORDERS.



HOW CAN I, A RUTHLESS MURDERER, SAVE HER?

I DON'T KNOW IF I HAD KILLED WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE. IF I AM CORRECT IN SAYING SO, LET THIS WOMAN GET WELL.

AND THE TWO RESUMED THEIR JOURNEY. SUDDENLY —



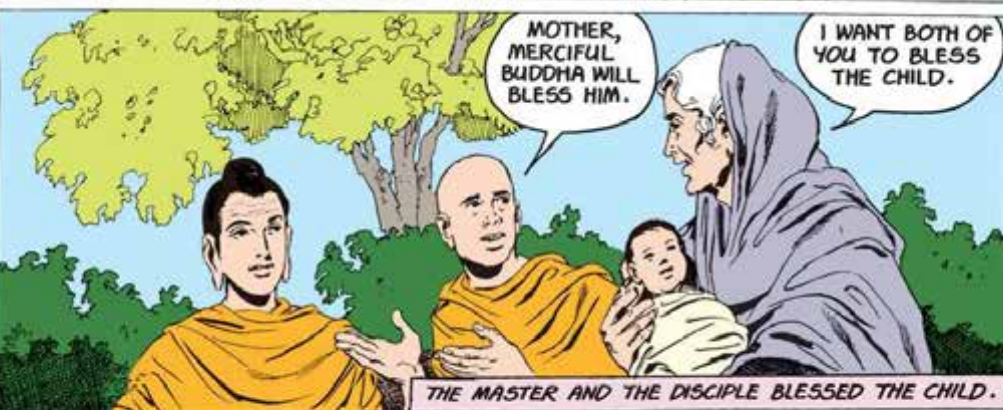
OH, SIR, PLEASE WAIT.

IT'S THE OLD WOMAN. HER DAUGHTER MUST BE DYING.

THE OLD WOMAN APPEARED, BRINGING NEWS NOT OF DEATH, BUT OF LIFE.



SIR, YOU BLESSED MY DAUGHTER AND SAVED HER LIFE. BLESS HER LITTLE SON, TOO.



MOTHER, MERCIFUL BUDDHA WILL BLESS HIM.

I WANT BOTH OF YOU TO BLESS THE CHILD.

THE MASTER AND THE DISCIPLE BLESSED THE CHILD.

WHEN THE OLD WOMAN WENT AWAY—

ANGULIMALA, AT LEAST NOW ARE YOU CONVINCED THAT YOU HAVE OVERCOME YOUR PAST DEEDS?

I AM, MASTER, THANKS TO YOU.

SON, YOU NO LONGER NEED ME. YOU MUST WALK ALONE IN THE WORLD.

IF YOU INSIST, I WILL. BUT IT IS YOU WHO HAVE GIVEN ME THE STRENGTH TO DO SO. BUDDHAM SHARANAM GACCHAMI.*

AFTER PARTING FROM BUDDHA, ANGULIMALA DECIDED TO GO TO SHRAVASTI. AS HE ENTERED THE CITY —

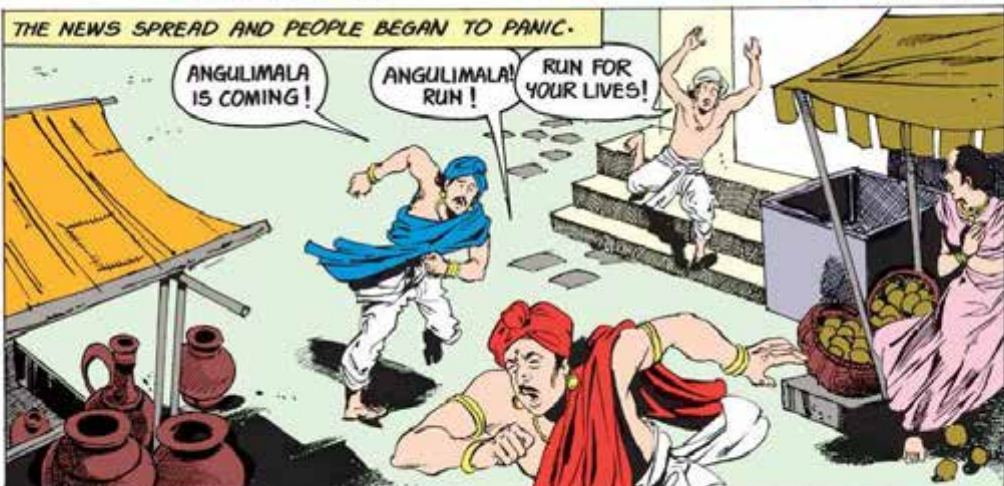
LOOK! DID YOU RECOGNISE HIM?

WHY? HE IS JUST A COMMON MONK. OR IS HE A GREAT ONE?

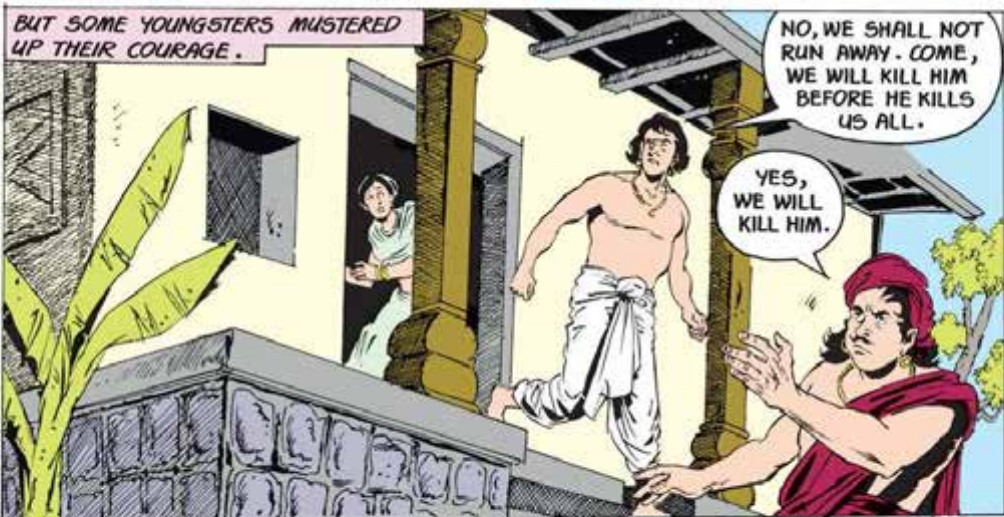
* I TAKE REFUGE IN BUDDHA



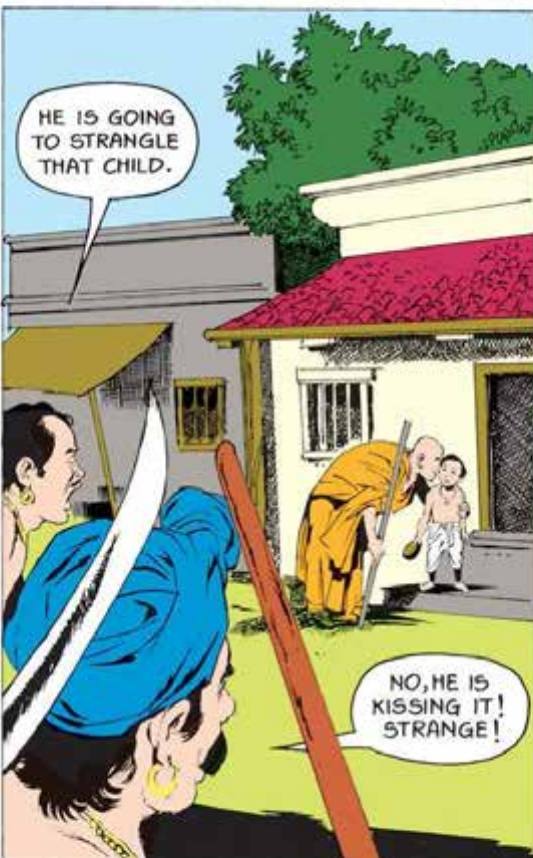
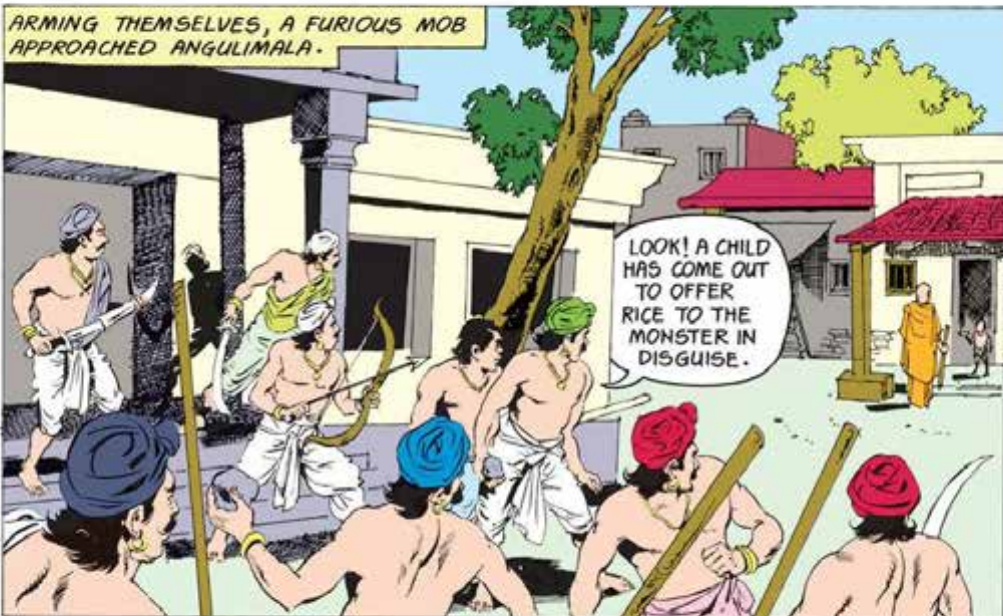
THE NEWS SPREAD AND PEOPLE BEGAN TO PANIC.



BUT SOME YOUNGSTERS MUSTERED UP THEIR COURAGE.



ARMING THEMSELVES, A FURIOUS MOB
APPROACHED ANGULIMALA.



AS SOON AS ANGULIMALA STEPPED
OUT OF THE HOUSE, A STONE HIT
HIM ON THE FOREHEAD.

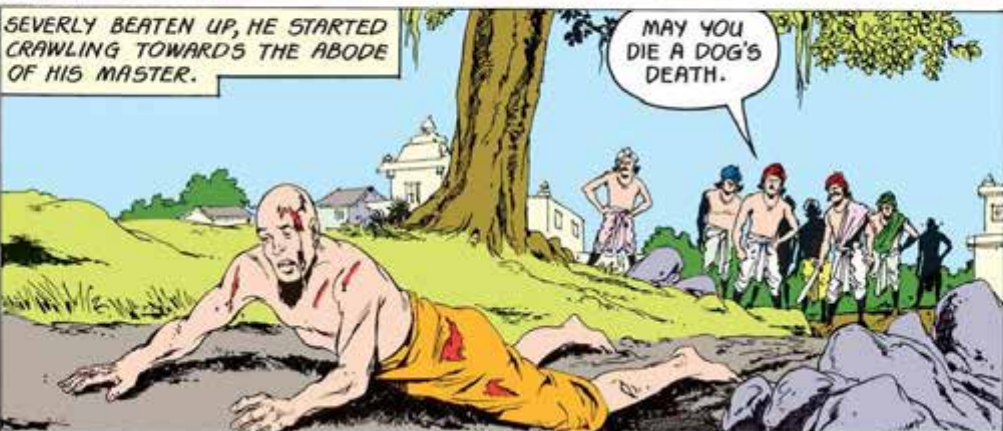


IT WAS FOLLOWED BY MANY MORE.

THEN THE MOB LET LOOSE ITS PENT-UP FURY.



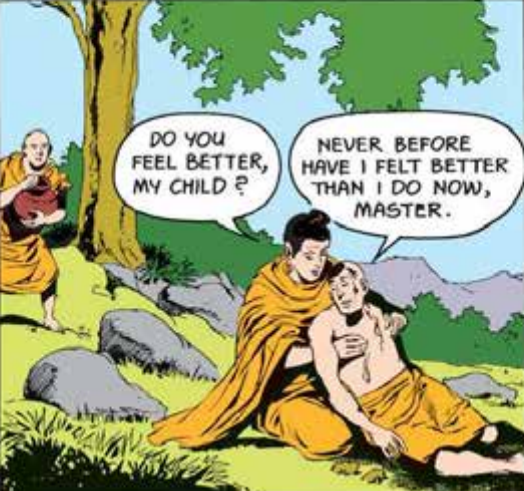
SEVERELY BEATEN UP, HE STARTED CRAWLING TOWARDS THE ABODE OF HIS MASTER.



WHEN HE REACHED THE MONASTERY—



* I TAKE REFUGE IN BUDDHA



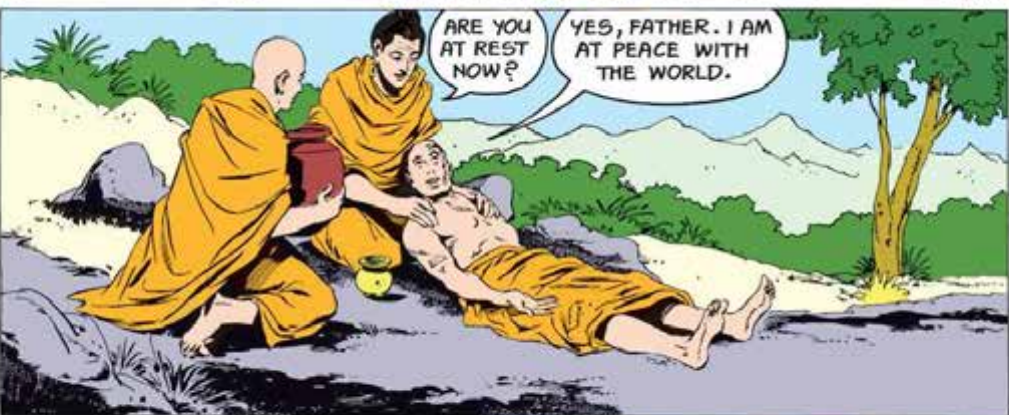
DO YOU
FEEL BETTER,
MY CHILD ?

NEVER BEFORE
HAVE I FELT BETTER
THAN I DO NOW,
MASTER.



WERE YOU ANGRY
WHEN THEY BEAT
YOU UP ?

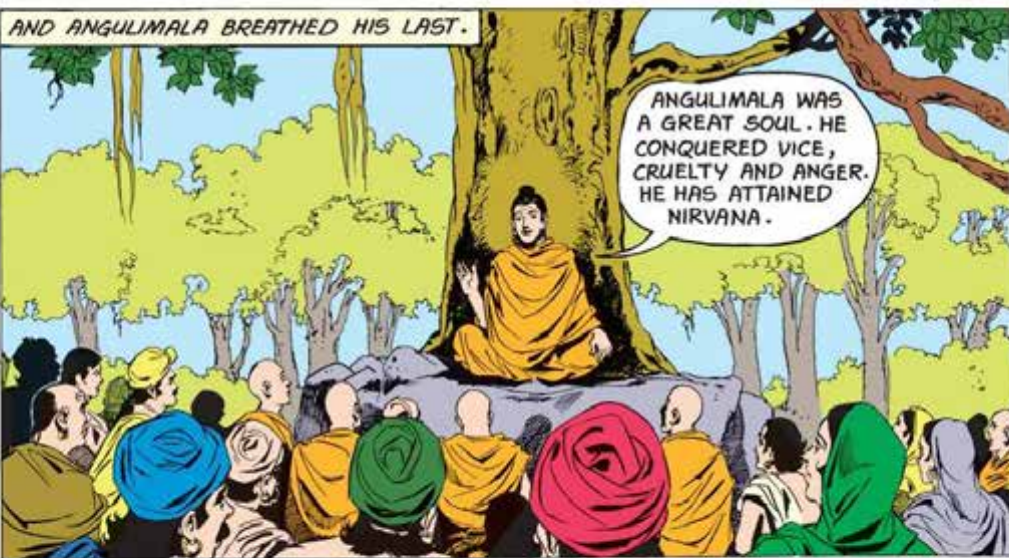
NO, FATHER. WHEN
I KILLED PEOPLE,
I DID NOT KNOW
WHAT I WAS DOING.
SIMILARLY, THEY
TOO DID NOT KNOW
WHAT THEY WERE
DOING.



ARE YOU
AT REST
NOW ?

YES, FATHER. I AM
AT PEACE WITH
THE WORLD.

AND ANGULIMALA BREATHED HIS LAST.



ANGULIMALA WAS
A GREAT SOUL. HE
CONQUERED VICE,
CRUELTY AND ANGER.
HE HAS ATTAINED
NIRVANA.

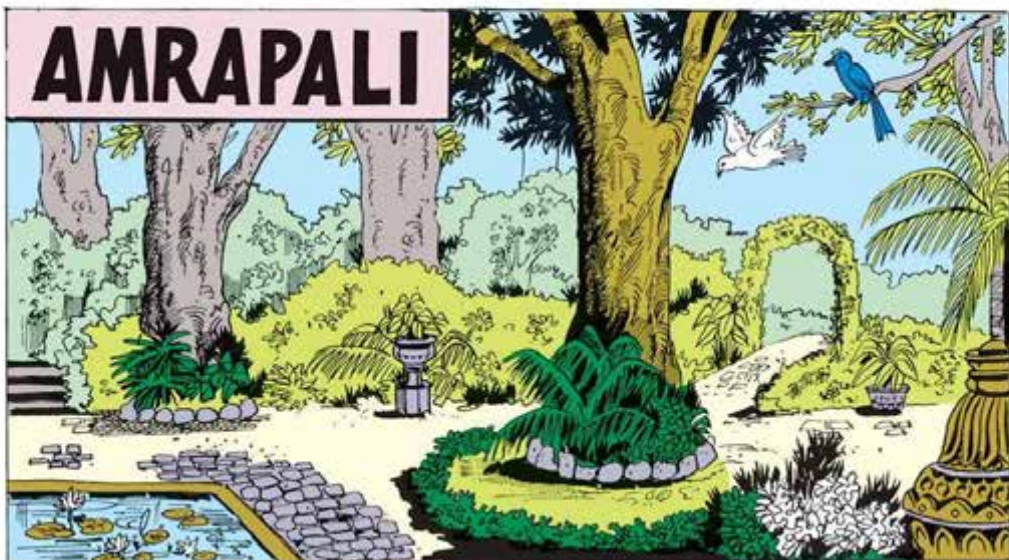


AMRAPALI

CHOSEN BY BUDDHA



AMRAPALI



THE LICHAVI NOBLES, WHO RULED OVER ANCIENT VAISHALI, WERE GREAT LOVERS OF BEAUTY AND TOOK A KEEN INTEREST IN THE MAINTENANCE OF THEIR GARDENS.

THE BEST OF GARDENERS WAS EMPLOYED TO TEND THE PLANTS.

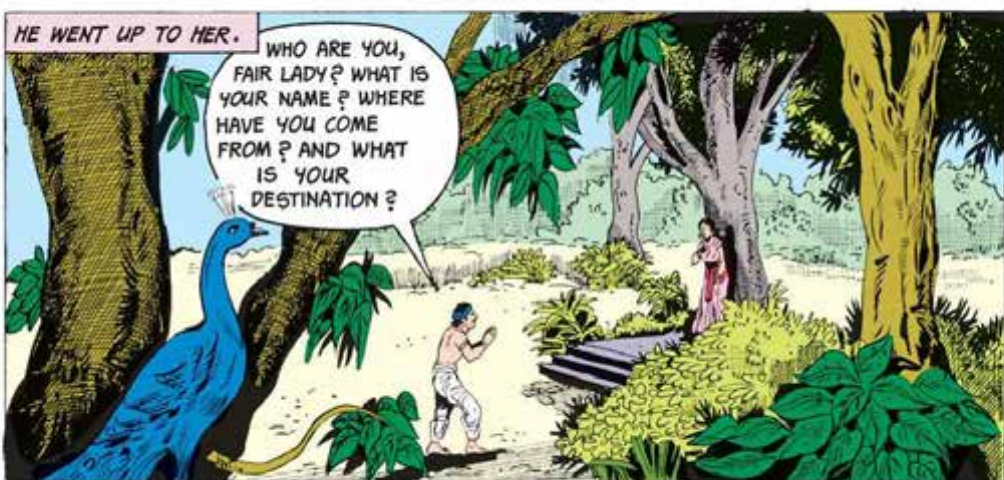


ONE DAY —



HE WENT UP TO HER.

WHO ARE YOU,
FAIR LADY? WHAT IS
YOUR NAME? WHERE
HAVE YOU COME
FROM? AND WHAT
IS YOUR
DESTINATION?



I DON'T HAVE A
NAME. I COME FROM
NOWHERE AND
HAVE NOWHERE
TO GO.

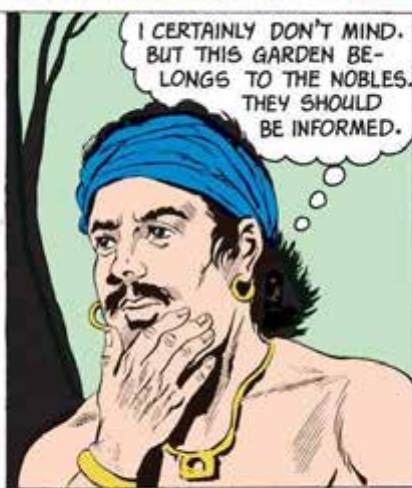


ARE YOU GOING
TO LIVE IN
THIS GARDEN?

YES. IF YOU DO NOT
MIND, I WOULD
LIKE TO LIVE
HERE.



I CERTAINLY DON'T MIND.
BUT THIS GARDEN BE-
LONGS TO THE NOBLES.
THEY SHOULD
BE INFORMED.



LEAVING HER IN THE GARDEN,
HE WENT TO THE NOBLES.

A STRANGE LADY
HAS APPEARED IN THE
STATE GARDEN!



IN ALL VAISHALI THERE
IS NO ONE AS BEAU-
TIFUL AS SHE IS!

WHO COULD
SHE BE?


WHY HAS
SHE COME
HERE?




THEY RUSHED OUT TO MEET THE
MYSTERIOUS MAIDEN.



WHEN THEY REACHED THE GARDEN —



THE GARDENER KNEW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT! SHE IS THE MOST ENCHANTING LADY I HAVE EVER SEEN!



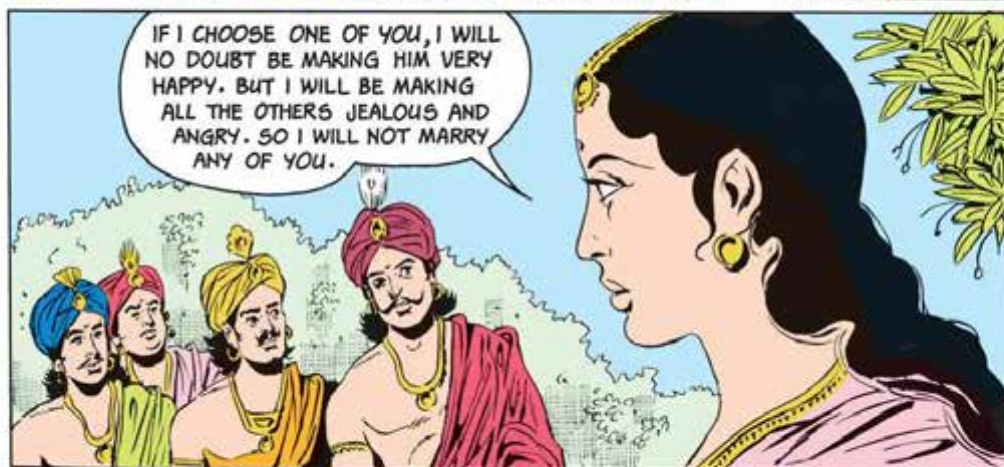
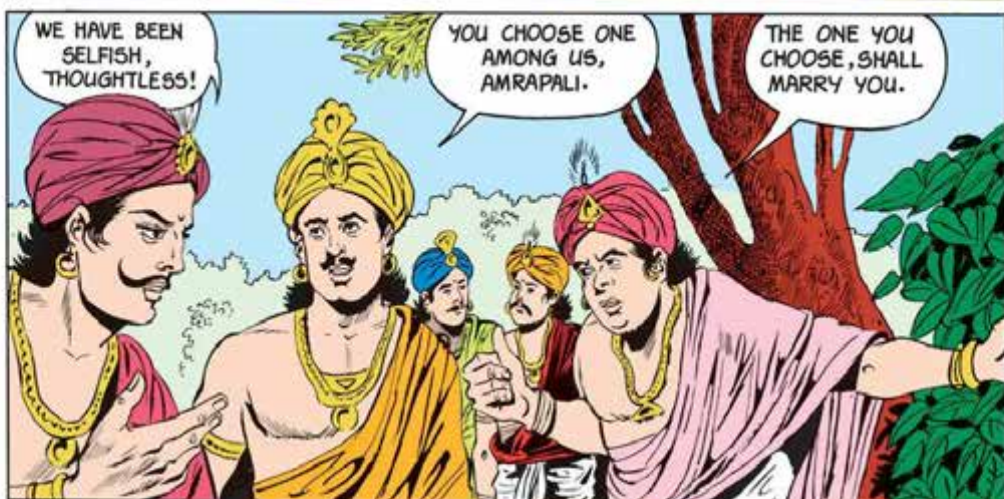
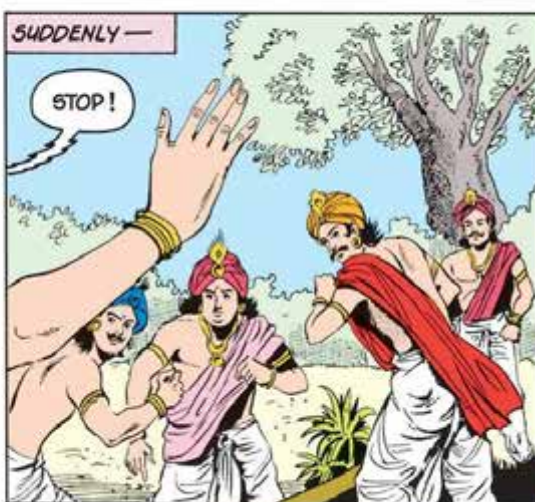
AMRAPALI* SHALL BE MINE!

YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE HER FROM ME FIRST!



A FIERCE FIGHT BROKE OUT AMONG THE NOBLES. EACH WANTED AMRAPALI FOR HIMSELF!

* THE MANGO-GIRL, AS SHE WAS FOUND NEAR THE MANGO TREE

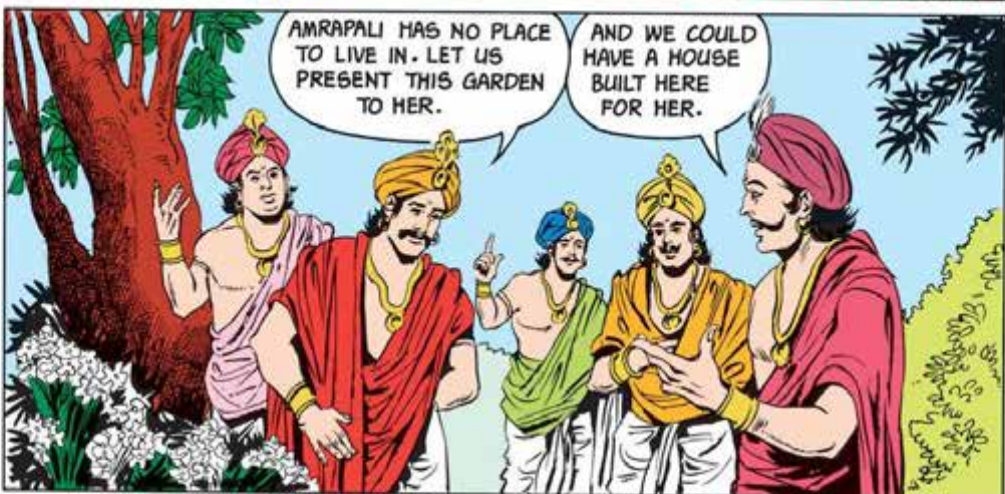


THE ELDERS OF VAISHALI, WHO HAD HURRIED TO THE GARDEN ON HEARING THE CLASH, SUPPORTED HER.



A WISE DECISION, INDEED! AMRAPALI CANNOT BELONG TO ONE PERSON. SHE SHALL BELONG TO VAISHALI.

WE AGREE.



AMRAPALI HAS NO PLACE TO LIVE IN. LET US PRESENT THIS GARDEN TO HER.

AND WE COULD HAVE A HOUSE BUILT HERE FOR HER.

AS SOON AS THE HOUSE WAS READY—



THIS GARDEN AND THE HOUSE ARE YOURS, AMRAPALI.

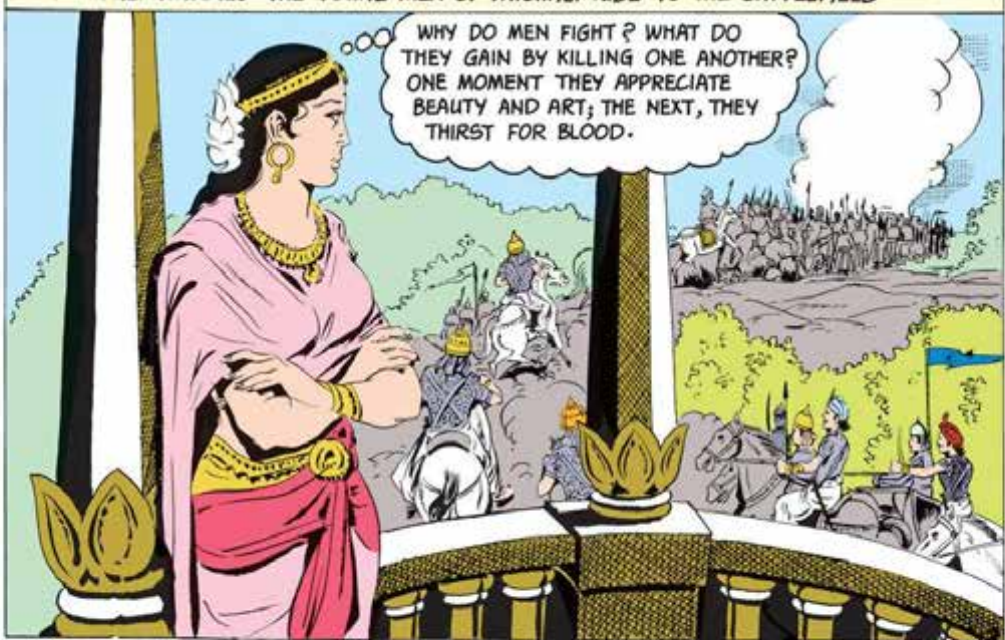
I SHALL EVER REMAIN INDEBTED TO THE PEOPLE OF VAISHALI FOR THE LOVE THEY HAVE SHOWN ME.

TO ENTERTAIN THE NOBLES OF VAISHALI, AMRAPALI, AN EXCELLENT DANCER, BEGAN TO GIVE DANCE PERFORMANCES.





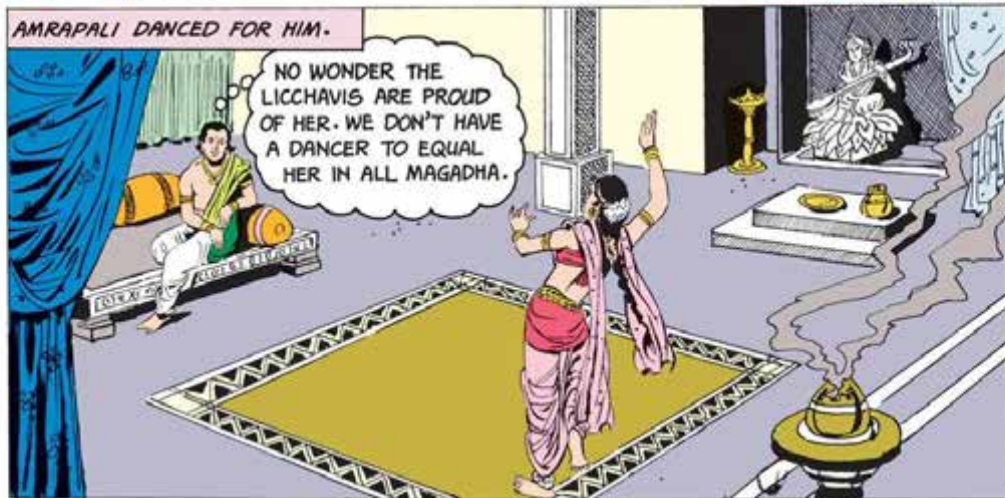
AS AMRAPALI WATCHED THE YOUNG MEN OF VAISHALI RIDE TO THE BATTLEFIELD —



A FEW DAYS LATER, A STRANGER CALLED ON HER.



AMRAPALI DANCED FOR HIM.



WHEN THE DANCE WAS OVER —



AMRAPALI, I MUST
TAKE YOUR LEAVE.
I HAVE TO GO BACK.

I LOVE YOU, AMRAPALI.
WHY DON'T YOU COME
AWAY WITH ME?

YOU AMUSE ME. YOU
ARE A TOTAL STRANGER.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW
YOUR NAME!

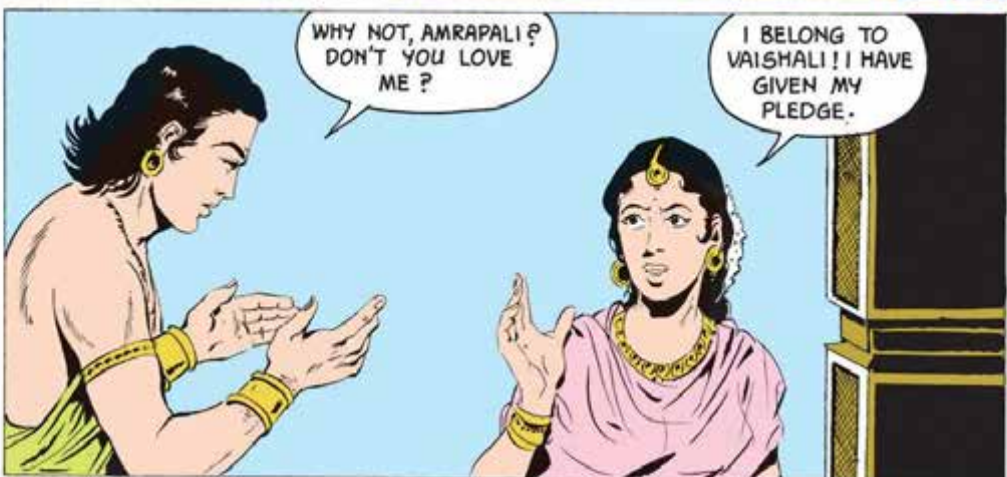
I AM
BIMBISARA.

WHAT! THE
DREADED KING
OF MAGADHA!

THERE IS NO ROOM FOR
LOVE IN THE HEARTS OF
AMBITIOUS MEN! HOW CAN
YOU TALK OF LOVE, WHEN
THIS VERY MOMENT BECAUSE
OF YOU HUNDREDS OF MEN
ARE DYING ON THE
BATTLEFIELD?

IF I GIVE UP MY
AMBITION TO CONQUER
VAISHALI AND CEASE
HOSTILITIES FORTH-
WITH, WILL YOU
MARRY ME?

NO!
I CANNOT!



WHY NOT, AMRAPALI?
DON'T YOU LOVE
ME?

I BELONG TO
VAISHALI!! I HAVE
GIVEN MY
PLEDGE.

WITHOUT ANOTHER WORD, THE DEJECTED
BIMBISARA TURNED AND LEFT. AMRAPALI
COULD NOT UNDERSTAND HER OWN FEELINGS.



WHY DO I FEEL SAD
TO SEE THE DREADED
ENEMY OF VAISHALI
GO?

A FEW DAYS LATER —

AMRAPALI, WE ARE BACK.

THAT COWARD, BIMBISARA, CALLED OFF THE BATTLE.



WHY DID HE DO IT? WAS IT FOR LOVE OF ME?



AMRAPALI, WE MISSED YOU.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE YOU COMPLETE THE DANCE YOU BEGAN, WHEN WE LEFT.

YOU SHALL, IN A MOMENT.



AS AMRAPALI DANCED —

WHAT IS WRONG WITH HER TODAY?

HER MOVEMENTS ARE LIFELESS.



AS THE NOBLES LEFT FOR THEIR HOMES —

AMRAPALI'S PERFORMANCE WAS A FAILURE TODAY.

IT WAS EVIDENT THAT HER HEART WAS NOT IN IT!



MEANWHILE, AMRAPALI SAT BROODING.

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH ME?
WHY DID I FIND NO JOY IN DANCING FOR THE NOBLES TODAY?

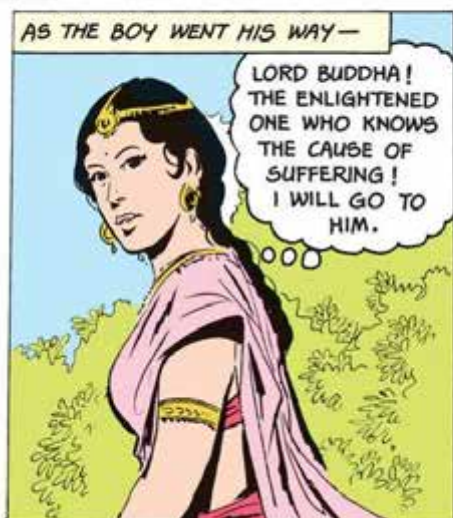
WHY DO THE PRESENTS THAT ONCE PLEASED ME, NOW DISGUST ME? WHY DO I FEEL LONELY ... LOST... AFRAID...?

THE NEXT MORNING, AS SHE WAS IN HER GARDEN —

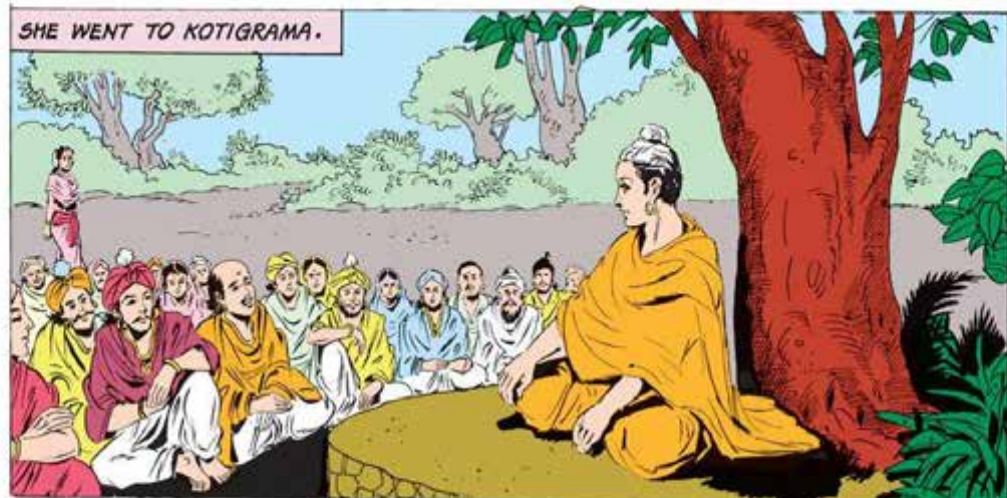
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL LOTUS! HOW FRESH IT IS!

WILL YOU SELL THAT LOTUS TO ME, MY LAD?

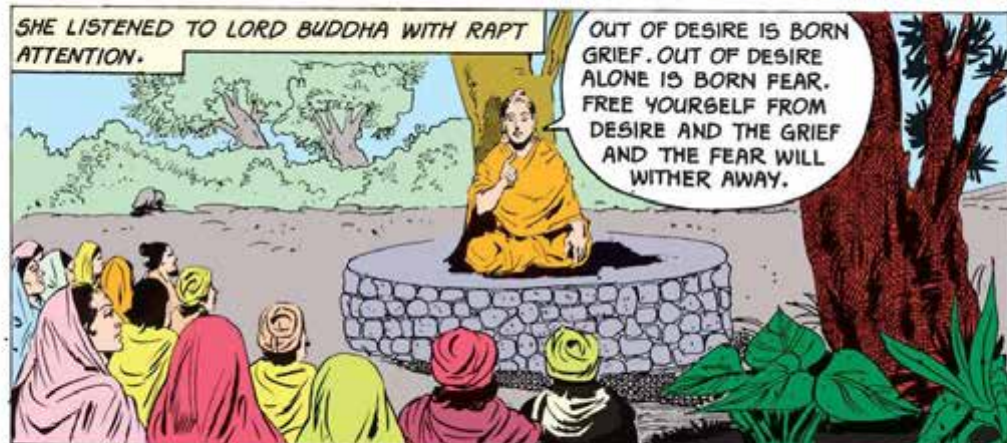
PARDON ME, LADY. THIS LOTUS IS NOT FOR SALE.



SHE WENT TO KOTIGRAMA.

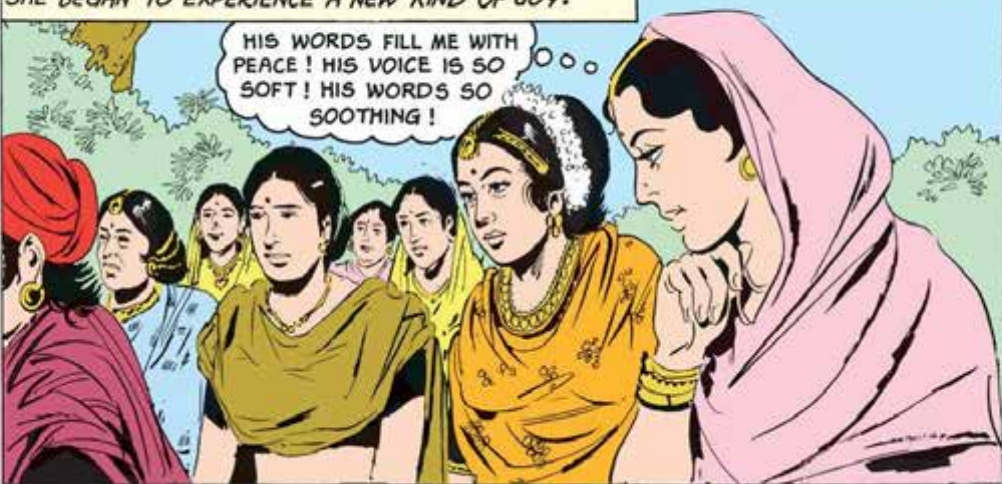


SHE LISTENED TO LORD BUDDHA WITH RAPT
ATTENTION.



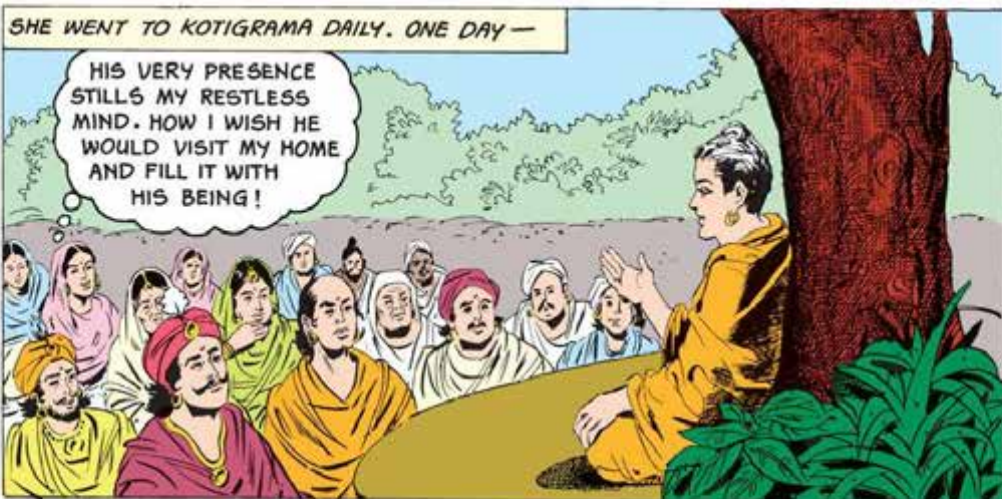
SHE BEGAN TO EXPERIENCE A NEW KIND OF JOY.

HIS WORDS FILL ME WITH
PEACE ! HIS VOICE IS SO
SOFT ! HIS WORDS SO
SOOTHING !



SHE WENT TO KOTIGRAMA DAILY. ONE DAY —

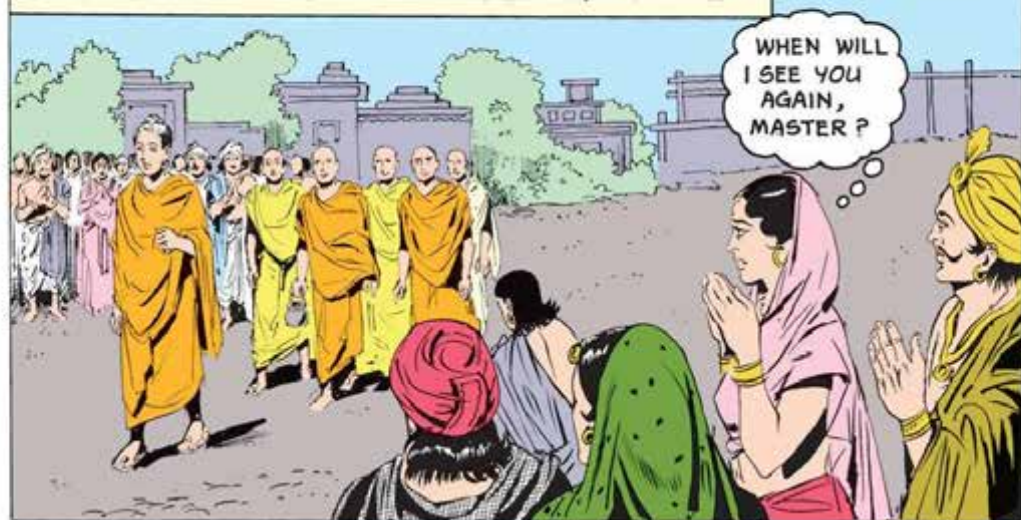
HIS VERY PRESENCE
STILLS MY RESTLESS
MIND. HOW I WISH HE
WOULD VISIT MY HOME
AND FILL IT WITH
HIS BEING !



BUT WILL THE LORD
VISIT THE HOUSE
OF AN UNWORTHY
PERSON LIKE ME ?



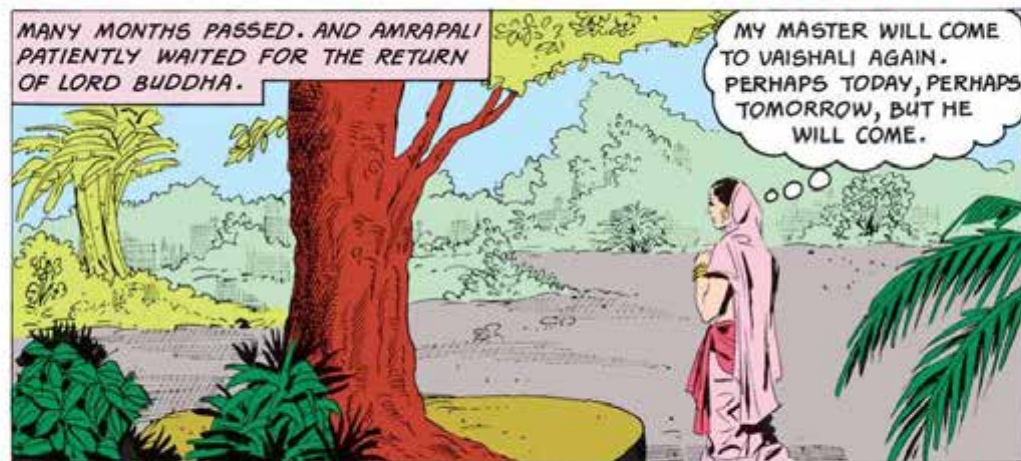
SOON IT WAS TIME FOR LORD BUDDHA TO LEAVE VAISHALI.

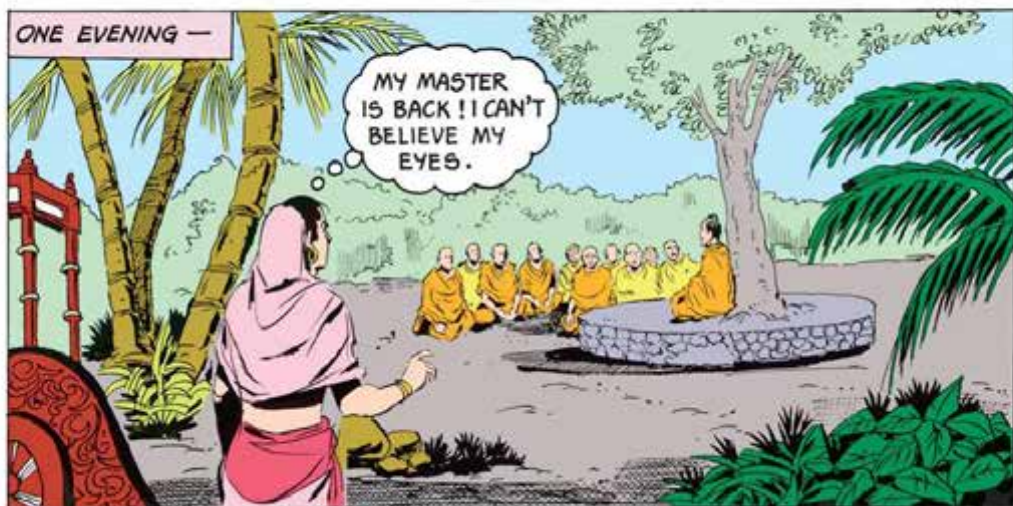


EVEN AFTER LORD BUDDHA HAD LEFT, AMRAPALI CONTINUED TO VISIT KOTIGRAMA EVERY EVENING.

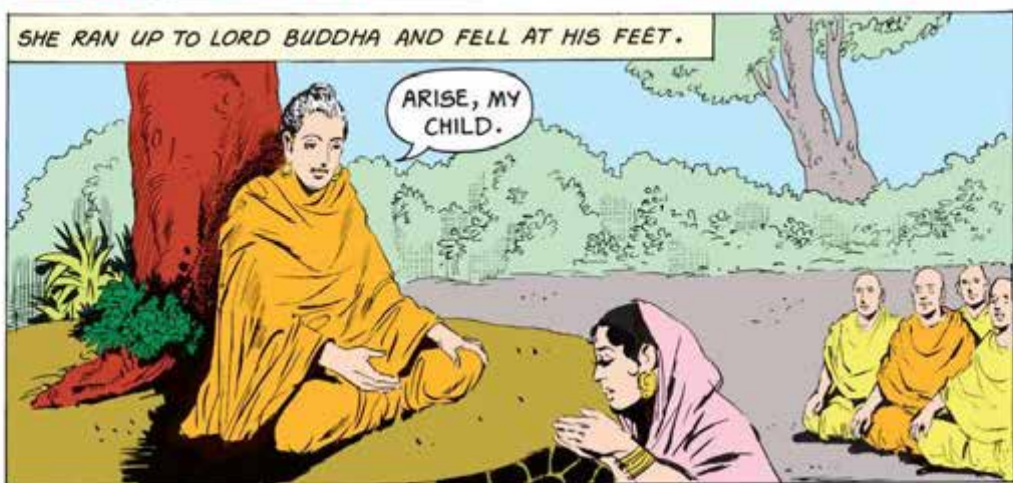


MANY MONTHS PASSED. AND AMRAPALI PATIENTLY WAITED FOR THE RETURN OF LORD BUDDHA.





SHE RAN UP TO LORD BUDDHA AND FELL AT HIS FEET.



AND BEFORE SHE COULD STOP HERSELF, THE WORDS POURED OUT.

MASTER, WILL YOU HONOUR ME BY EATING AT MY HOUSE TOMORROW?

I WILL COME, MY CHILD.



AMRAPALI SPED HOMEWARDS TO VAISHALI, TO PREPARE FOR THE COMING OF HER MASTER.



SUDDENLY, A FEW CHARIOTS CARRYING THE NOBLES OF VAISHALI, CAME CHARGING FROM THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.



WHERE ARE YOU SPEEDING TO?



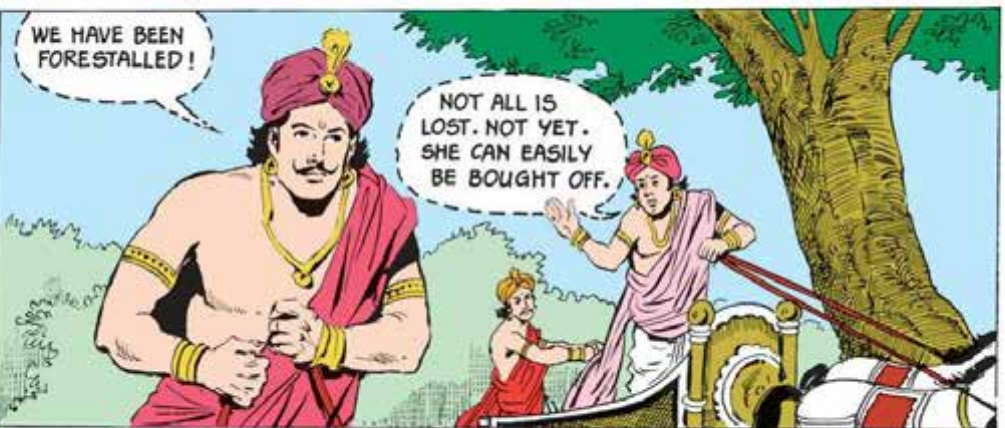
WE HEARD THAT LORD BUDDHA HAS ARRIVED. WE ARE OFF TO INVITE HIM TO EAT WITH US AT THE PALACE TOMORROW.

BUT THE LORD HAS ALREADY AGREED TO DINE AT MY HOUSE TOMORROW.



WE HAVE BEEN FORESTALLED!

NOT ALL IS LOST. NOT YET. SHE CAN EASILY BE BOUGHT OFF.



AMRAPALI, IF YOU LET LORD BUDDHA HAVE HIS FIRST MEAL AT VAISHALI WITH US, WE WILL GIVE YOU ALL THE GOLD YOU WANT.



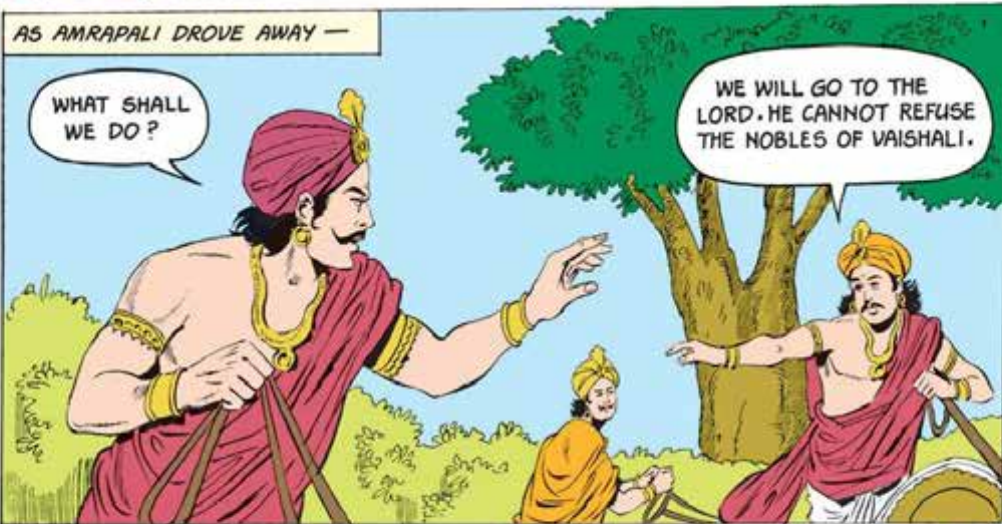
NO. EVEN IF YOU OFFER ME THE KINGDOM OF VAISHALI, I WON'T GIVE UP THE HONOUR OF SERVING THE LORD!



AS AMRAPALI DROVE AWAY —

WHAT SHALL WE DO ?

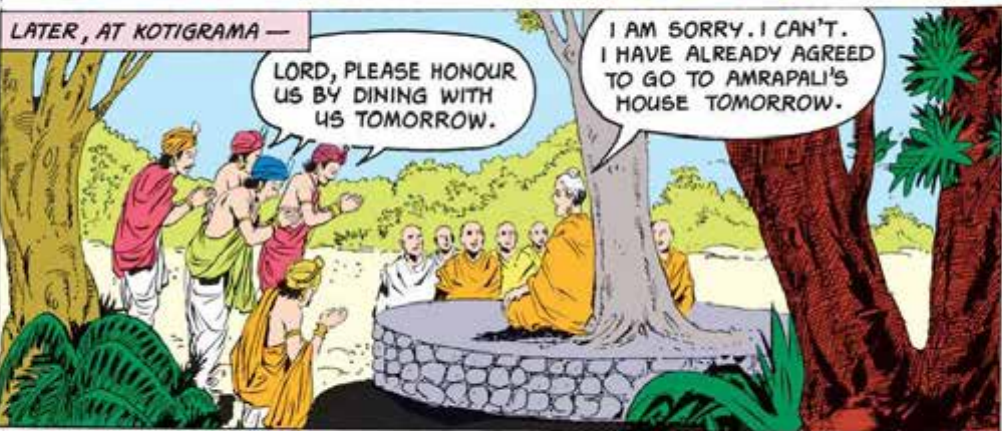
WE WILL GO TO THE LORD. HE CANNOT REFUSE THE NOBLES OF VAISHALI.



LATER, AT KOTIGRAMA —

LORD, PLEASE HONOUR US BY DINING WITH US TOMORROW.

I AM SORRY. I CAN'T. I HAVE ALREADY AGREED TO GO TO AMRAPALI'S HOUSE TOMORROW.



THE NEXT DAY, LORD BUDDHA WENT TO AMRAPALI'S HOUSE.

I HAVE COME, AMRAPALI.

LORD, YOU DO ME GREAT HONOUR.

LATER —

LORD, WHY DO I FEEL SUCH IMMENSE JOY AS I SERVE YOU?

AMRAPALI, YOU HAVE BEGUN TO KNOW THE JOY OF GIVING.

LATER —

LORD, PERMIT ME TO GRANT MY GARDEN AND HOUSE TO THE SANGHA.

SO BE IT, CHILD. IT COULD BE USED AS A MONASTERY.

THEN, LEAVING BEHIND HER THE WORLDLY LIFE AND ITS HEARTACHES...

...AMRAPALI BEGAN TO LEAD A LIFE OF RENUNCIATION, FINDING AT LAST THE PEACE OF MIND SHE HAD CRAVED.

UPAGUPTA



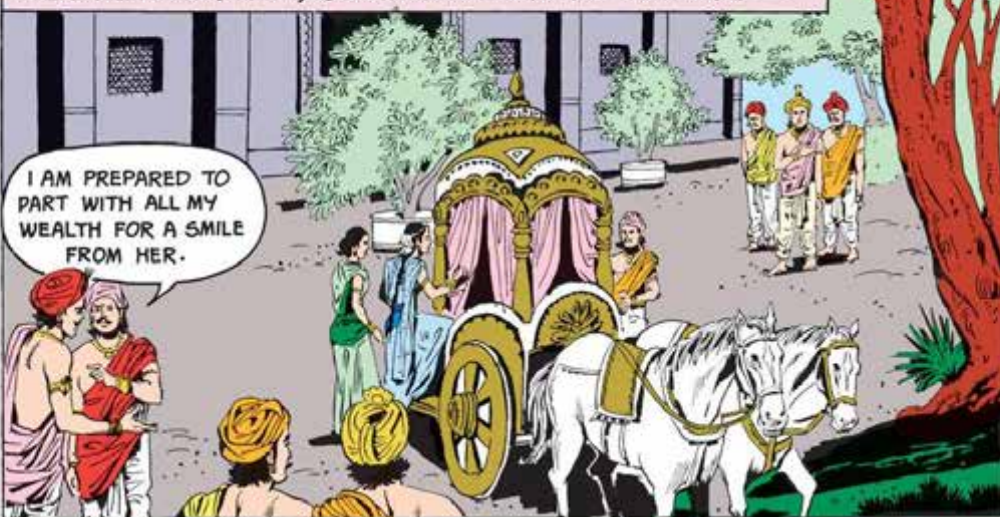
LONG, LONG AGO IN ANCIENT MATHURA, THERE LIVED A DANCER CALLED VASAVADATTA, WHO WAS FAMED FOR HER BEAUTY AND HER ART.

WHAT A PERFECT FIGURE! WHAT A CHARMING APPEARANCE! WHAT GRACEFUL MOVEMENTS...

... AND WHAT A HARD HEART! SHE'S UNIQUE, INDEED!

YOU SEEM BITTER. HAVE YOU TOO BEEN SPURNED BY HER?

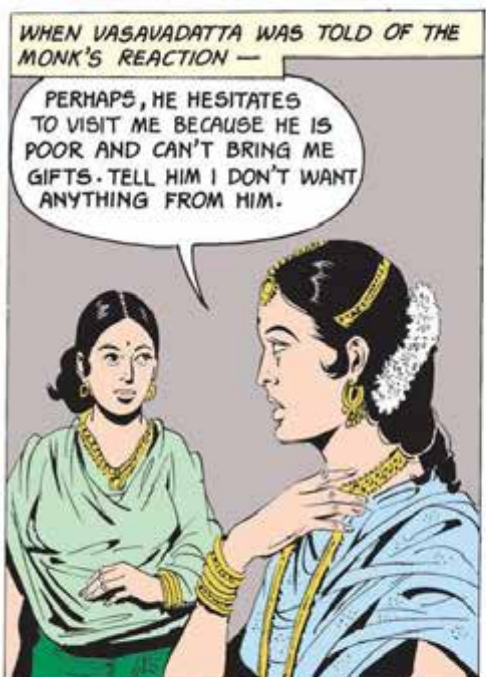
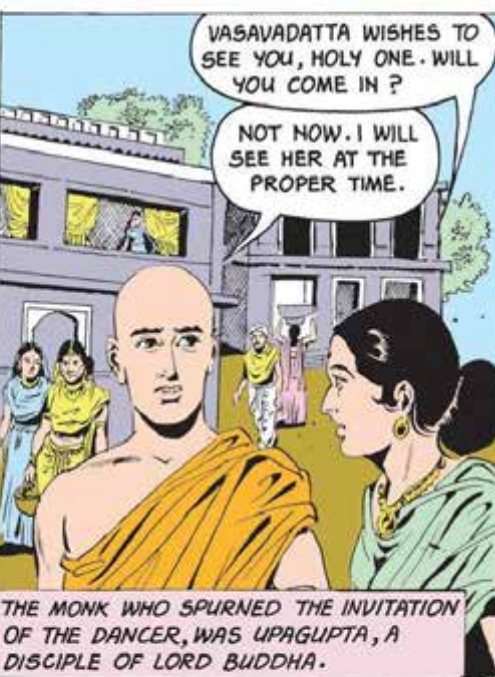
AFTER THE PERFORMANCE, AS VASAVADATTA LEFT THE TOWN HALL —



WITH NOT SO MUCH AS A GLANCE AT HER ADMIRERS, VASAVADATTA SAT IN HER CHARIOT AND RODE HOME WITH HER COMPANION.



ONE EVENING, AS VASAVADATTA WAS STANDING IN THE BALCONY OF HER MANSION, SHE SAW A YOUNG MONK PASS BY IN THE STREET BELOW.



HER FRIEND WENT BACK TO UPAGUPTA.

O MONK, MY FRIEND DOES NOT CRAVE FOR GIFTS OR RICHES. PLEASE VISIT HER.

NO, I CANNOT. IT IS NOT YET TIME TO VISIT VASAVADATTA.

AND UPAGUPTA WALKED AWAY.

VASAVADATTA WAS STUNNED.

WHY SHOULD THE ONLY MAN I CHOOSE TO LOVE, SHUN ME?

SHE STOPPED GIVING DANCE PERFORMANCES, MUCH TO THE ANNOYANCE OF THE PEOPLE OF MATHURA.

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH VASAVADATTA?

LIFE IN MATHURA HAS LOST ITS CHARM. HOW COULD SHE BE SO CRUEL TO US!

MEANWHILE, HER FRIEND WAS WORRIED.

SHE SITS ALONE, BROODING OVER THAT HEARTLESS MONK. IT IS NOT GOOD FOR HER HEALTH AND LOOKS. I MUST FIND SOMETHING TO DISTRACT HER.

A FEW DAYS LATER —

A FAMOUS SCULPTOR
IS HOLDING AN EXHIBI-
TION OF HIS WORKS.
LET US GO AND SEE IT,
VASAVADATTA.

ALL RIGHT,
IF YOU
INSIST.

AT THE SHOW, VASAVADATTA FORGOT
HER SORROW FOR A WHILE.

SUCH EXQUISITE
WORKMANSHIP!

WILL YOU
SELL THIS
TO ME?

YOU MIGHT
FIND THE
PRICE TOO
HEAVY.

WHATEVER IT
MAY COST, I AM
PREPARED TO
BUY IT. QUOTE
YOUR PRICE.

IT'S YOURS, IF YOU
AGREE TO DANCE
AGAIN.

VASAVADATTA HESITATED —

TO... DANCE...

YOU CAN'T GO BACK ON YOUR WORD. YOU HAVE AGREED TO PAY WHATEVER PRICE HE ASKS.

VASAVADATTA RELUCTANTLY AGREED.

THE NEXT EVENING, PEOPLE FLOCKED TO THE TOWN HALL.

AT LAST WE WILL SEE VASAVADATTA DANCE AGAIN!

THANKS TO THE CHIEF SCULPTOR OF OUR CITY. IT WAS INDEED A CLEVER BARGAIN!

AT THE END OF THE PERFORMANCE, VASAVADATTA RECEIVED THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE. BUT INSTEAD OF MAKING HER HAPPY, IT ONLY MADE HER BROOD ALL THE MORE.

WHY DID THAT MONK SHUN ME WHEN THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE LONG FOR A SIGHT OF ME?

IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOWED, THE CHIEF SCULPTOR BEGAN TO VISIT THE DANCER TO CAPTURE HER IMAGE IN STONE.



MY ART WILL DIE WITH ME. BUT YOURS WILL LAST FOR CENTURIES.

MY TALENT, WHICH BRINGS SO MUCH HAPPINESS TO YOU, ONLY MAKES MY ENVIOUS RIVALS HATE ME.



A FEW DAYS LATER, THE SCULPTOR SUDDENLY VANISHED.



PERHAPS HE IS OUT OF TOWN.

WHY DOESN'T HE COME? THE WORK IS YET TO BE COMPLETED. IT'S THREE DAYS SINCE HE LAST CAME!

MEANWHILE, HIS FRIENDS AND RELATIVES TOO WERE SEARCHING FOR THE CHIEF SCULPTOR.



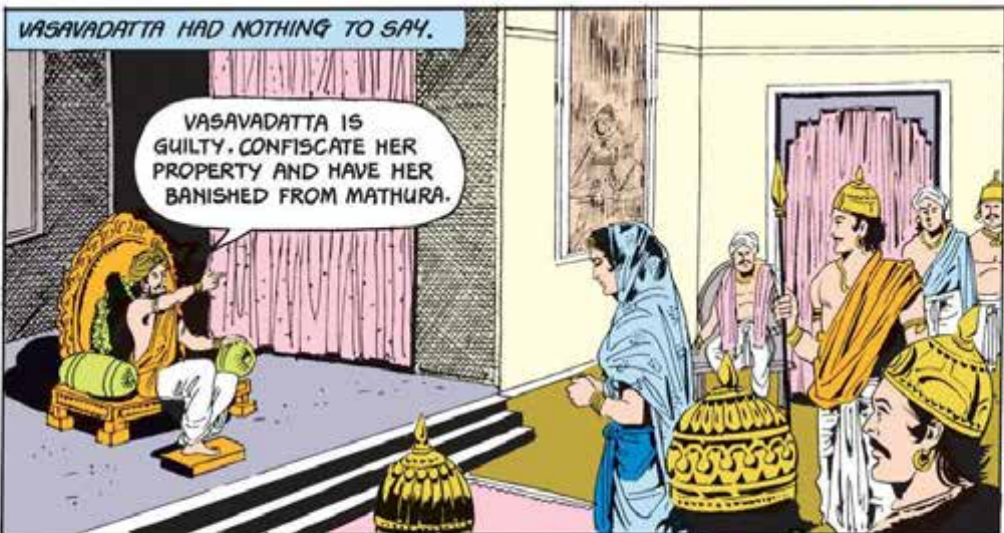
HAVE HIS RIVALS DONE AWAY WITH HIM?

HE WAS LAST SEEN ENTERING THE HOUSE OF VASAVADATTA, THREE DAYS AGO.

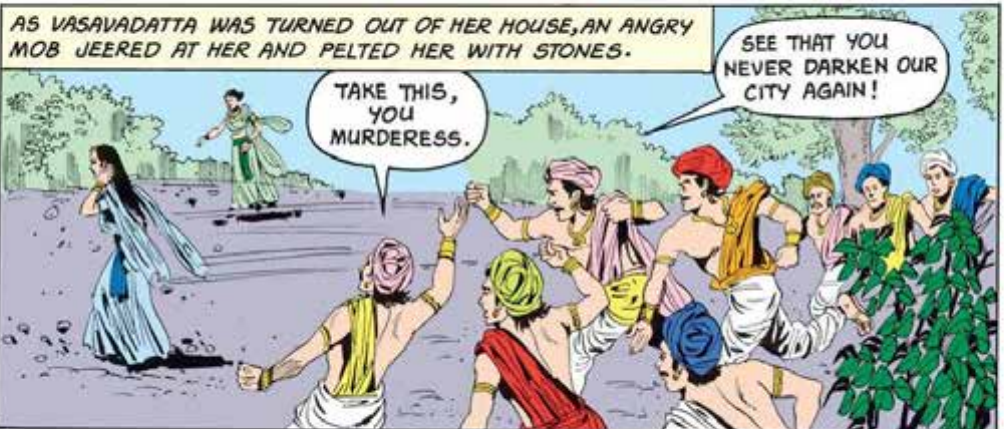
LATER, THE BODY OF THE MISSING SCULPTOR WAS FOUND BURIED NOT FAR FROM VASAVADATTA'S HOUSE. SHE WAS CHARGED WITH THE MURDER OF THE SCULPTOR.



VASAVADATTA HAD NOTHING TO SAY.



AS VASAVADATTA WAS TURNED OUT OF HER HOUSE, AN ANGRY MOB JEERED AT HER AND PELTED HER WITH STONES.



BLEEDING PROFUSELY, VASAVADATTA REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF MATHURA AND FOUND REFUGE IN A CREMATORIUM.



PEOPLE COMING IN AND OUT OF MATHURA, LOOKED UPON VASAVADATTA, NOW SERIOUSLY ILL WITH FESTERING WOUNDS, AS AN UNTOUCHABLE.



THEN CAME UPAGUPTA, THE BUDDHIST MONK.

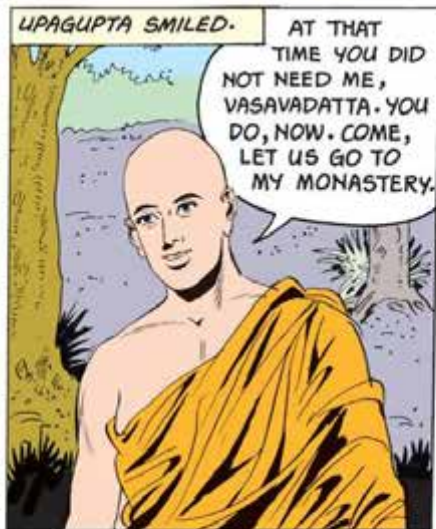




O MONK, WHEN ALL MATHURA ADMIRERD ME, YOU ALONE SPURNED ME.



WHY HAVE YOU CHOSEN TO VISIT ME NOW WHEN I AM A MASS OF FESTERING FLESH, SHUNNED BY ALL ?



UPAGUPTA SMILED.

AT THAT TIME YOU DID NOT NEED ME, VASAVADATTA. YOU DO, NOW. COME, LET US GO TO MY MONASTERY.



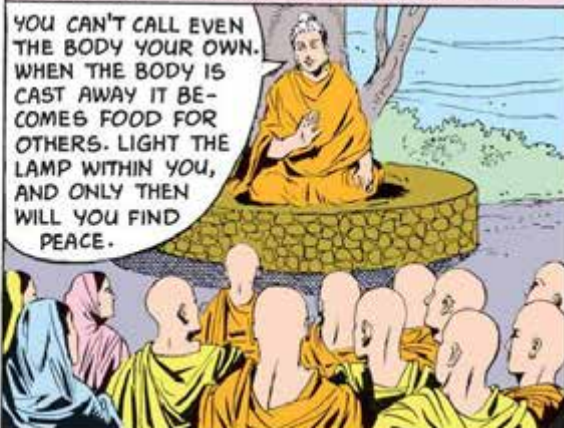
UPAGUPTA TOOK HER WITH HIM AND NURSED HER BACK TO HEALTH.

YOU SEEM SAD, VASAVADATTA.

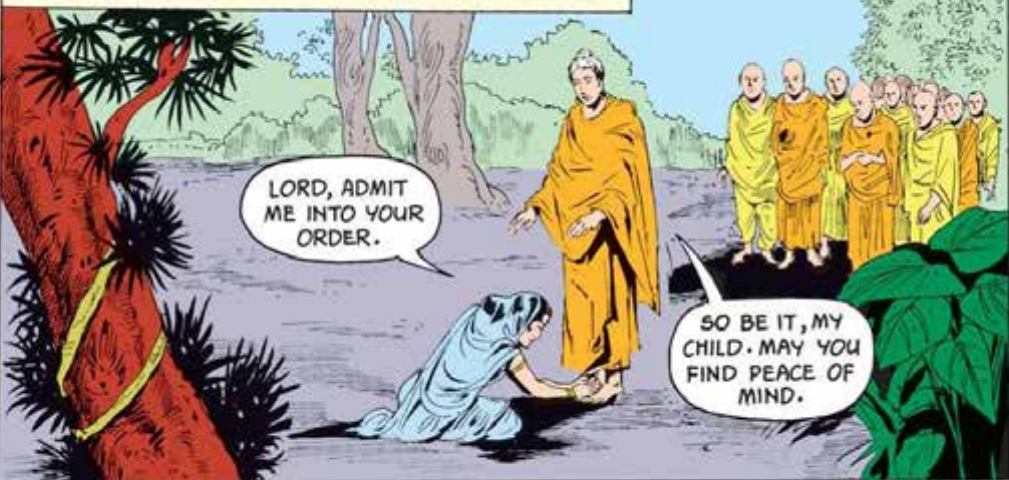
I AM NO LONGER BEAUTIFUL. NO ONE WILL LOOK AT ME NOW.



CURIOUS TO KNOW MORE, SHE BEGAN TO ATTEND THE DISCOURSES OF LORD BUDDHA.



VASAVADATTA FELL AT THE FEET OF LORD BUDDHA.





THE ACROBAT

A COLLECTION OF BUDDHIST TALES



THE ACROBAT

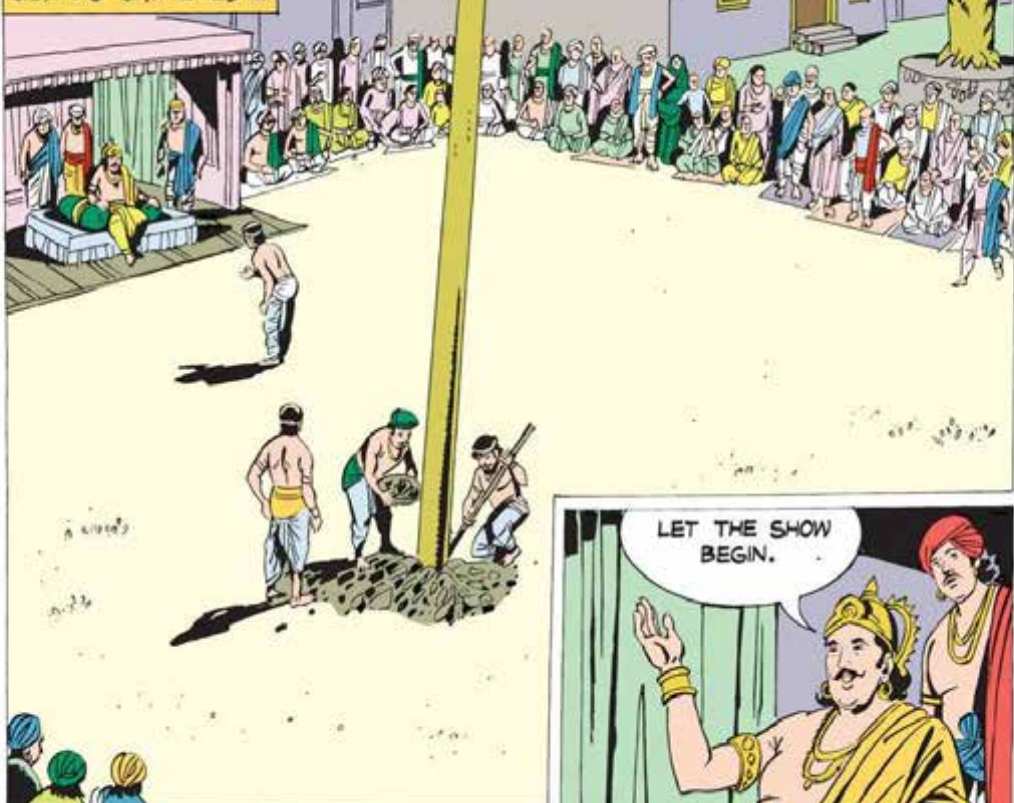
THE CITY OF RAJAGRIHA WAS BUZZING WITH EXCITEMENT.



AND A FEW DAYS LATER, RAJAGRIHA JUBILANTLY WELCOMED ITS VISITORS.

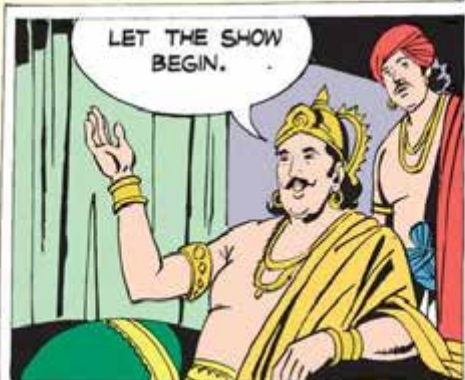


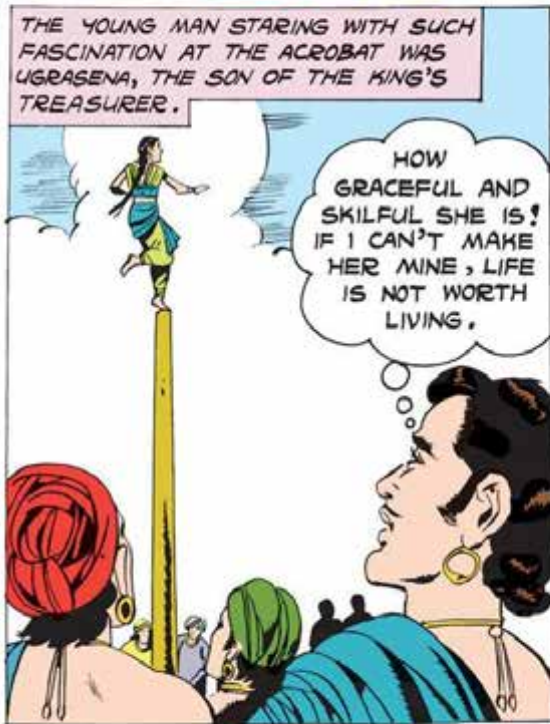
CROWDS GATHERED...



...AND THOSE AT THE VERY BACK STOOD ON THEIR TOES TO GET A BETTER VIEW.

LET THE SHOW BEGIN.





UGRASENA WENT HOME AND FLUNG HIMSELF ON HIS BED.

FATHER, MOTHER—I WANT TO MARRY THE ACROBAT WE SAW TODAY. IF I CAN'T MARRY HER, I SHALL STARVE MYSELF TO DEATH.

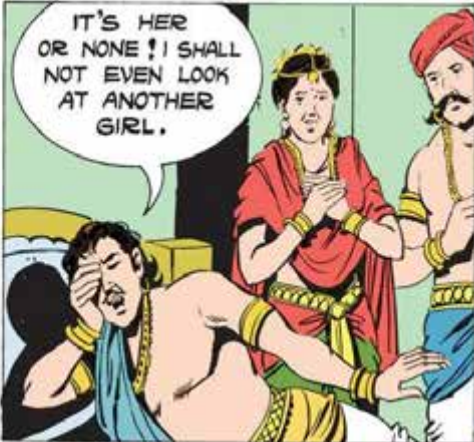


MY DEAR SON, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

WHAT CAN YOU HAVE IN COMMON WITH AN ACROBAT? WE WILL FIND YOU A GIRL... ONE WORTHY OF YOU...



IT'S HER OR NONE! I SHALL NOT EVEN LOOK AT ANOTHER GIRL.



THE HELPLESS TREASURER AND HIS WIFE SENT UGRASENA'S FRIEND TO THE ACROBAT'S FATHER.

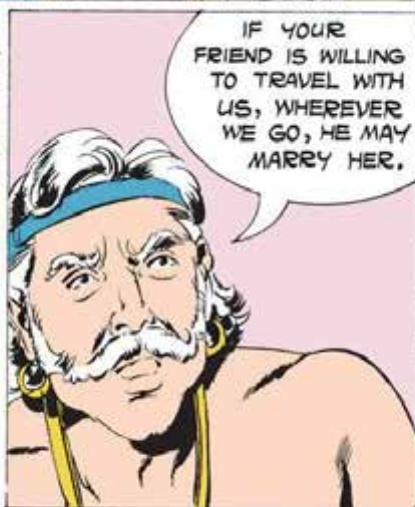
MY FRIEND WISHES TO MARRY YOUR DAUGHTER. AS A MARRIAGE PORTION, HERE IS ALL THE GOLD YOU MIGHT DESIRE.



FOR SHAME! ARE YOU ASKING ME TO SELL MY DAUGHTER?



IF YOUR FRIEND IS WILLING TO TRAVEL WITH US, WHEREVER WE GO, HE MAY MARRY HER.



THE TREASURER AND HIS WIFE WERE SHOCKED TO HEAR THIS.

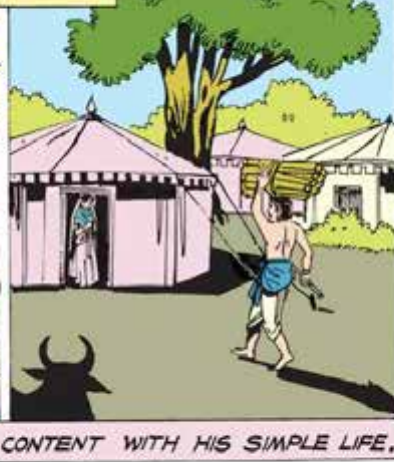
SON,
SURELY YOU WILL
NOT LEAVE US TO
GO TRAVELLING WITH
AN ACROBAT!

I WILL,
FOR SHE MEANS
EVERYTHING TO
ME NOW.

SO UGRASENA MARRIED THE ACROBAT...

...AND JOINED THE TROUPE.

BEING THE ONLY MEMBER OF THE TROUPE UNSKILLED IN
ACROBATICS, HE MADE HIMSELF USEFUL IN OTHER WAYS...

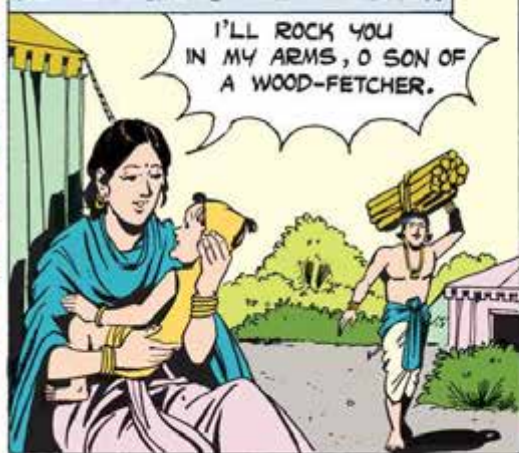


... AND WAS CONTENT WITH HIS SIMPLE LIFE.

SOON, A SON WAS BORN TO THEM.



HIS WIFE SPENT ALL HER TIME BETWEEN SHOWS WITH THE BABY.

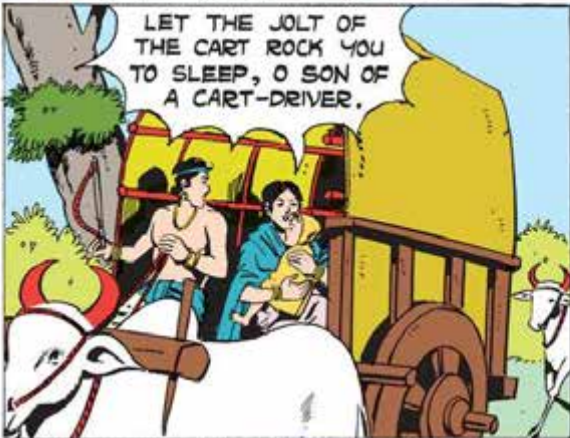


I'LL ROCK YOU
IN MY ARMS, O SON OF
A WOOD-FETCHER.

CLOSE YOUR EYES
AND SLEEP, O SON OF
A WATER-CARRIER.



LET THE JOLT OF
THE CART ROCK YOU
TO SLEEP, O SON OF
A CART-DRIVER.



WOMAN, ARE
YOU REFERRING
TO ME, WHEN
YOU SING THOSE
SONGS ?

YES...
I AM.



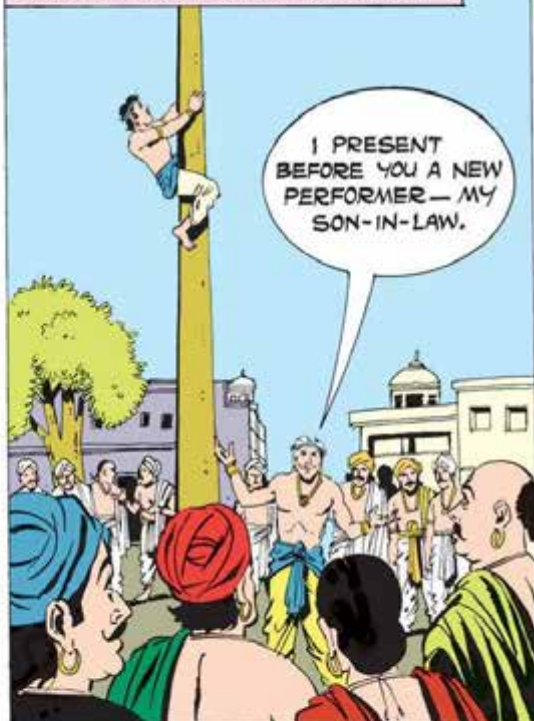
YOU ARE TRIFLING
WITH ME. I SHALL
LEAVE YOU, AND
GO AWAY.

DO AS
YOU THINK
BEST.

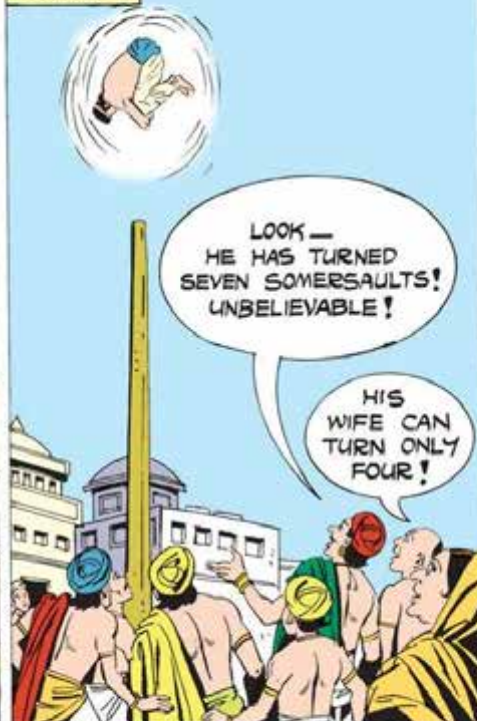




UGRASENA MADE RAPID PROGRESS IN HIS NEW PROFESSION AND SOON —



WHEN UGRASENA DISPLAYED HIS FEATS —



SOON AT RAJAGRIHA, NEWS SPREAD THAT THE ACROBATS WERE RETURNING AND, WITH THEM, THE TREASURER'S SON.

IT SEEMS UGRASENA WILL PERFORM THE FEAT OF TURNING FOURTEEN SOMERSAULTS IN THE AIR!

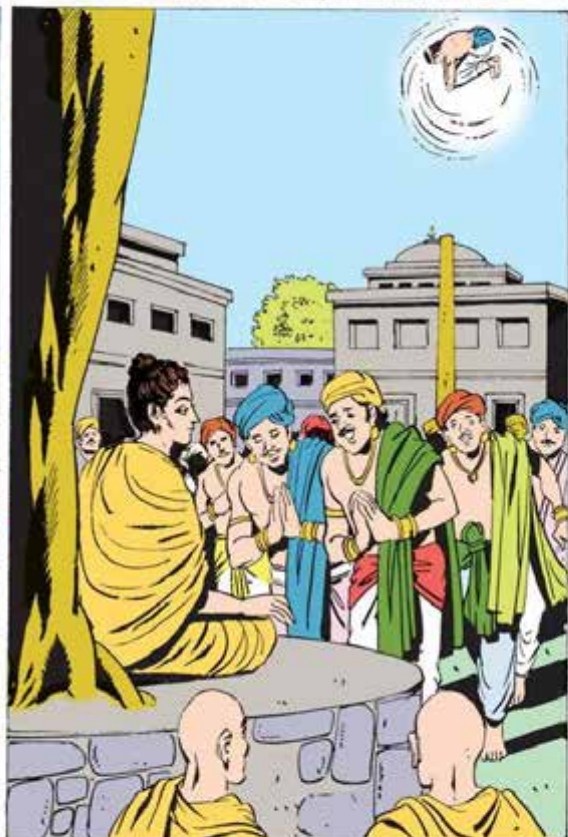
IMPOSSIBLE! YOU ARE JOKING!

ON THE APPOINTED DAY, THE ENTIRE CITY GATHERED IN THE SQUARE TO WATCH UGRASENA PERFORM.



JUST AS HE TURNED THE FIRST SOMERSAULT —

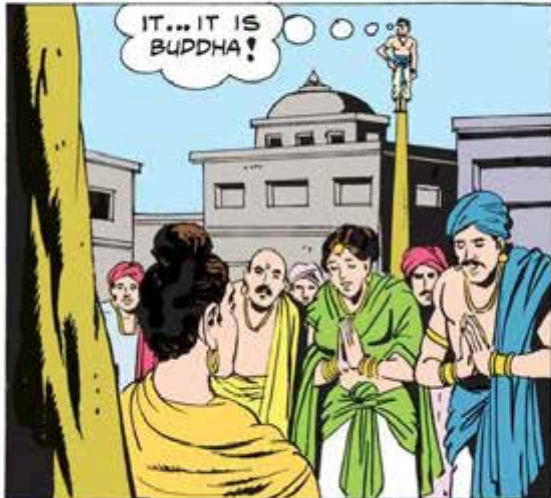
LOOK! THE HOLY TEACHER!



WHEN HE CAME BACK TO POSITION—



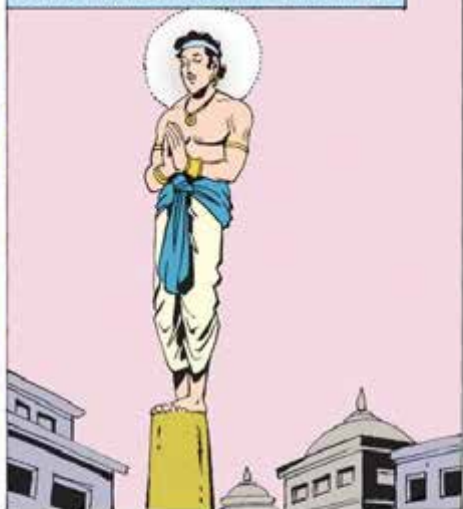
IT... IT IS
BUDDHA!



AS UGRASENA GAZED AT BUDDHA...

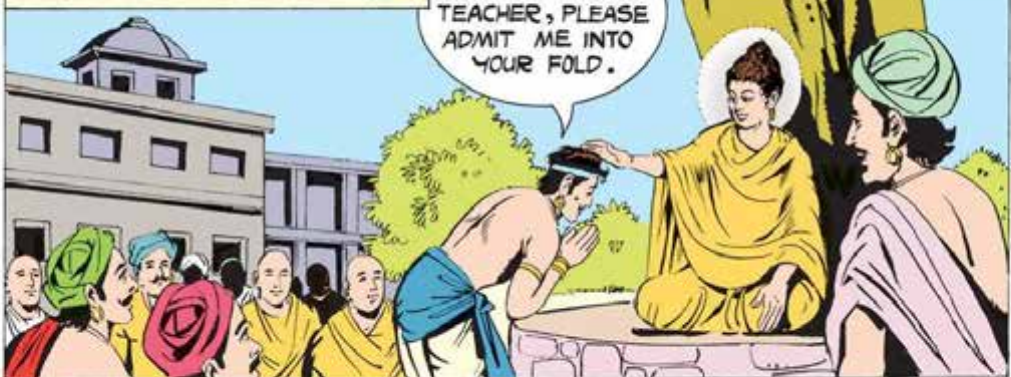


...A CHANGE CAME OVER HIM.

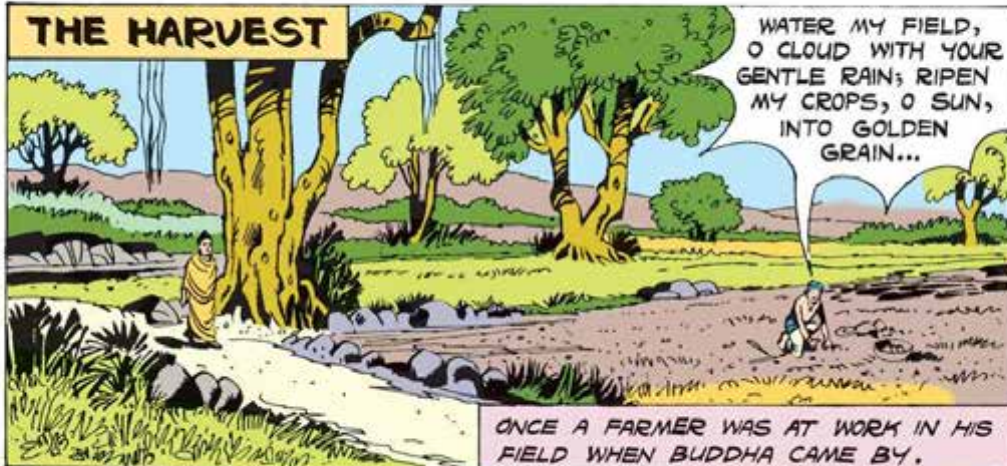


HE SLID DOWN THE POLE AND—

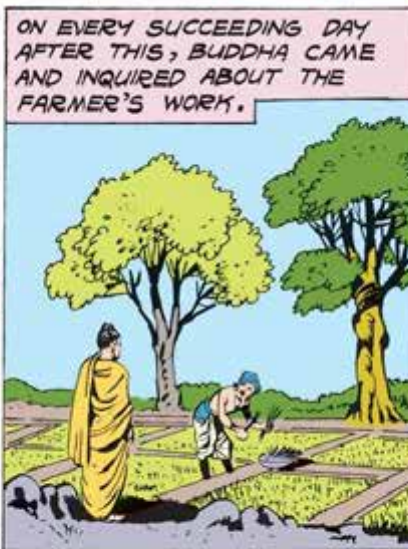
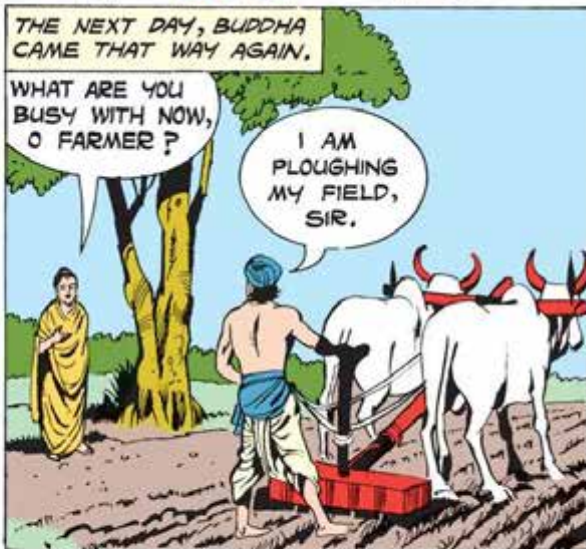
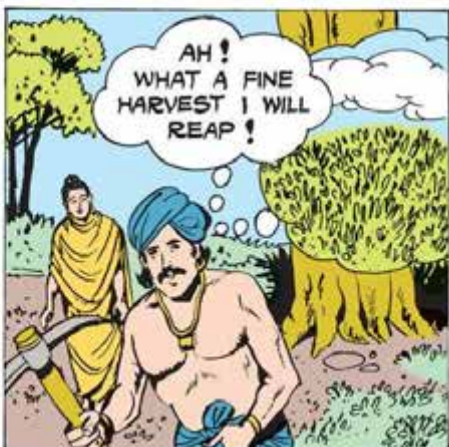
MOST VENERABLE
TEACHER, PLEASE
ADMIT ME INTO
YOUR FOLD.



THE HARVEST

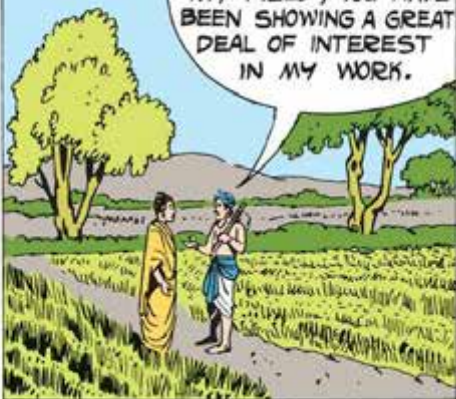


ONCE A FARMER WAS AT WORK IN HIS FIELD WHEN BUDDHA CAME BY.



THEN ONE DAY—

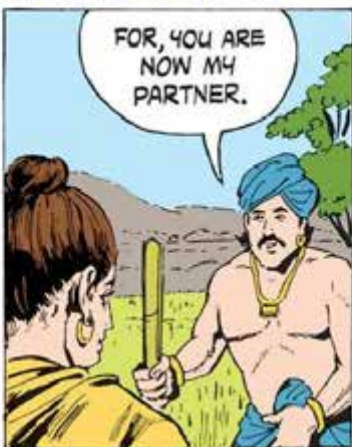
SIR, I FIND THAT FROM THE DAY I BEGAN TO CLEAR MY FIELD, YOU HAVE BEEN SHOWING A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST IN MY WORK.



SO WHEN MY CROP IS HARVESTED, I AM GOING TO SHARE IT WITH YOU.



FOR, YOU ARE NOW MY PARTNER.



THE DAYS PASSED AND THE FARMER'S CROPS RIPENED.

I SHALL CALL IN THE REAPERS TOMORROW.



BUT THAT NIGHT, BLACK CLOUDS GATHERED...



...THUNDER AND LIGHTNING RENT THE SKY...



...AND A RAGING STORM BROKE OUT.



THE NEXT MORNING, WHEN THE FARMER HURRIED TO HIS FIELD —



AND
I HAVE PROMISED
A SHARE TO MY
PARTNER!



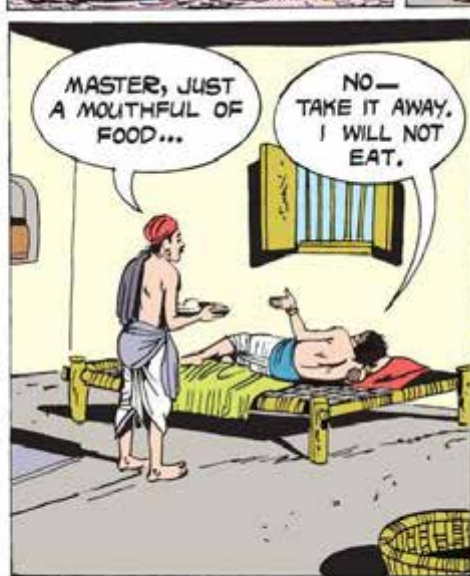
THE GRIEF-STRIKEN FARMER RETURNED HOME
AND TOOK TO HIS BED.



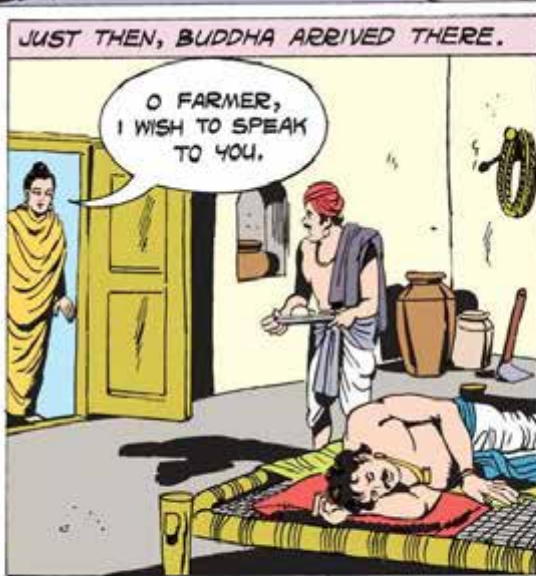
JUST THEN, BUDDHA ARRIVED THERE.

MASTER, JUST
A MOUTHFUL OF
FOOD...

NO—
TAKE IT AWAY.
I WILL NOT
EAT.



O FARMER,
I WISH TO SPEAK
TO YOU.



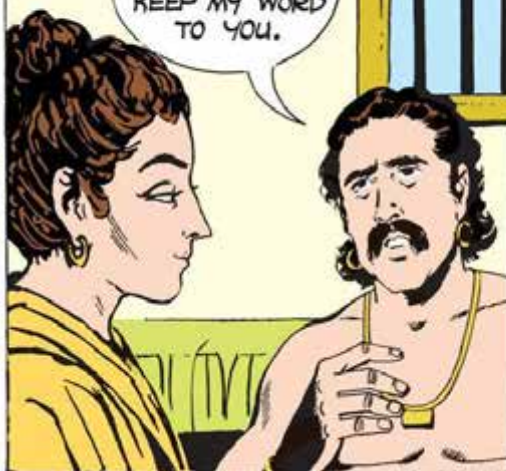
THE FARMER SLOWLY ROSE AND
CAME TO SIT BY BUDDHA.

TELL ME WHY
YOU GRIEVE,
O FARMER.

LAST
NIGHT'S STORM
DESTROYED
MY CROP...



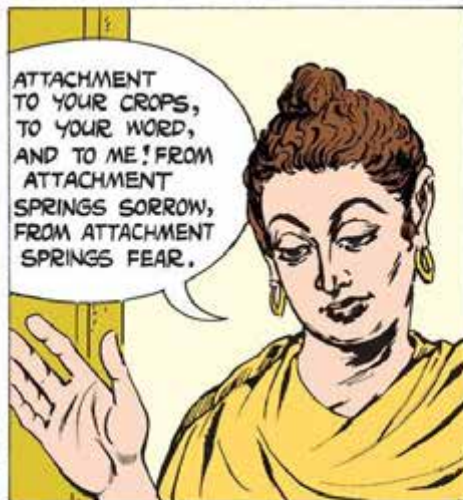
...AND I CANNOT
KEEP MY WORD
TO YOU.



YOU WOULD NOT GRIEVE
THUS, IF YOU KNEW
WHAT YOUR SORROW
SPRINGS FROM. IT IS
FROM ATTACHMENT,
O FARMER.



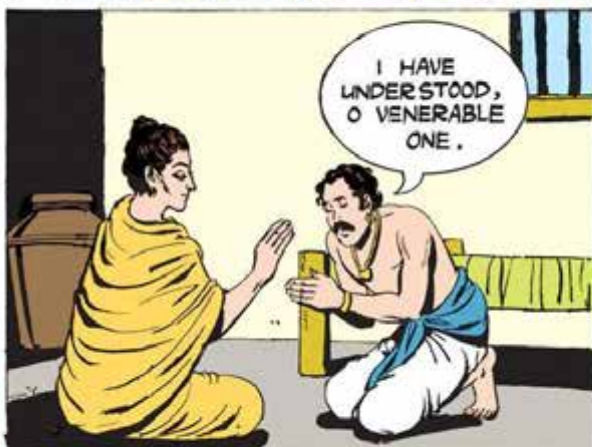
ATTACHMENT
TO YOUR CROPS,
TO YOUR WORD,
AND TO ME! FROM
ATTACHMENT
SPRINGS SORROW,
FROM ATTACHMENT
SPRINGS FEAR.



HE WHO IS
FREE FROM
ATTACHMENT IS
FREE OF THE
BURDEN OF
BOTH SORROW
AND FEAR.



I HAVE
UNDERSTOOD,
O VENERABLE
ONE.



THE GOLDEN MAIDEN

IN THE TOWN OF SRAVASTI LIVED YOUNG KUMARA, HE WAS THE SON OF RICH PARENTS AND HE HAD COME OF AGE.

SON, YOU ARE OLD ENOUGH TO BE MARRIED. WE SHALL CHOOSE A GOOD, BEAUTIFUL GIRL FOR YOU AND...

FATHER, I DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED.

BUT THE OLD COUPLE DID NOT GIVE UP. EVERY ONCE IN A WAY, THEY PUT THE QUESTION TO HIM AGAIN. AT LAST...

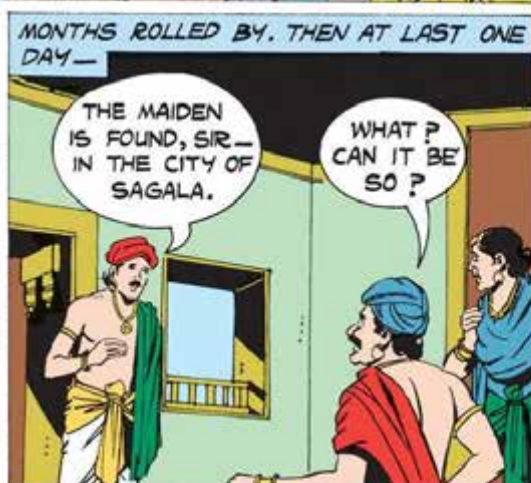
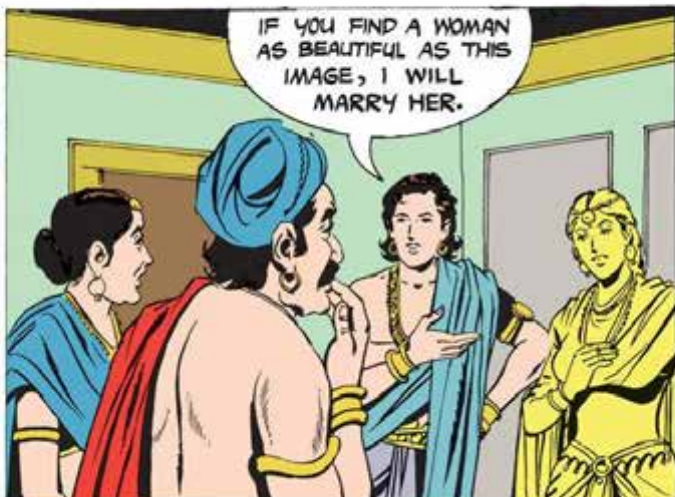
THEY WILL NOT TAKE 'NO' FOR AN ANSWER.

THE ONLY WAY OUT IS TO AGREE BUT MAKE SURE THAT THEY WON'T FIND THE GIRL FOR ME.

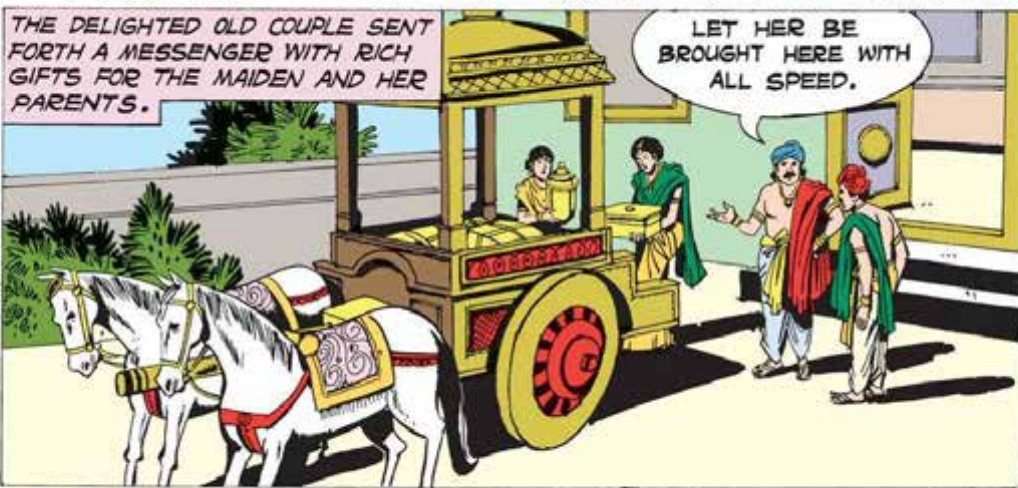
THE YOUNG MAN GOT SKILLED ARTISANS TO CARVE A GOLDEN IMAGE OF MATCHLESS BEAUTY. THEN—

MOTHER!
FATHER! I WILL MARRY BUT...

...ONLY ONE SUCH AS THIS!



THE DELIGHTED OLD COUPLE SENT FORTH A MESSENGER WITH RICH GIFTS FOR THE MAIDEN AND HER PARENTS.



KUMARA RECEIVED THE NEWS WITH MIXED FEELINGS.

WHEN I GOT THE STATUE MADE, I NEVER IMAGINED THAT SUCH A GIRL COULD BE FOUND.

BUT NOW THAT SHE IS FOUND, I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE HER!

THEY SAY THAT COMPARED WITH THE IMAGE...



... SHE IS FAR, FAR LOVELIER! I CANNOT EVEN IMAGINE THE EXTENT OF HER BEAUTY!



HE IMPATIENTLY AWAITED THE ARRIVAL OF THE GIRL.

IS THAT HER CARRIAGE?

NO! IT IS NOT. OH, HOW SLOWLY THE HOURS CRAWL BY!



EACH PASSING DAY, THOUGHTS OF HER KEPT HIM COMPANY.



OH!



IT IS NIGHT ALREADY, THE TENTH NIGHT SINCE SHE SET OUT. WHERE IS SHE?

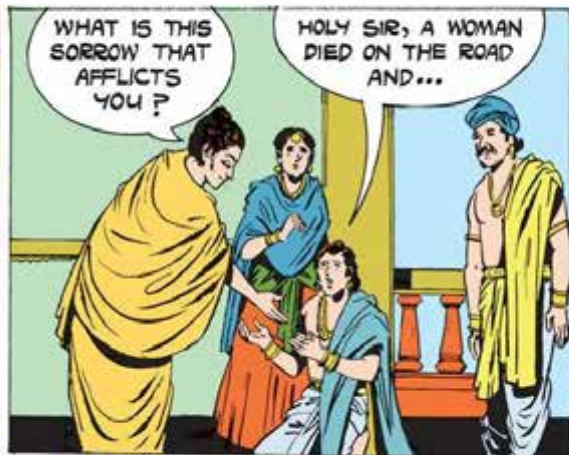


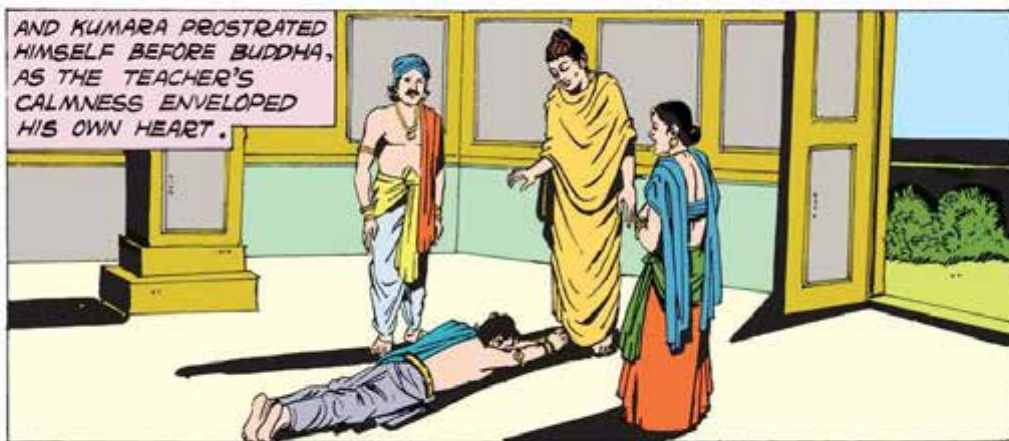
FATHER, MOTHER — SHE IS STILL NOT COME. WHAT COULD DELAY HER SO?











BUDDHA AND KRISHA GAUTAMI

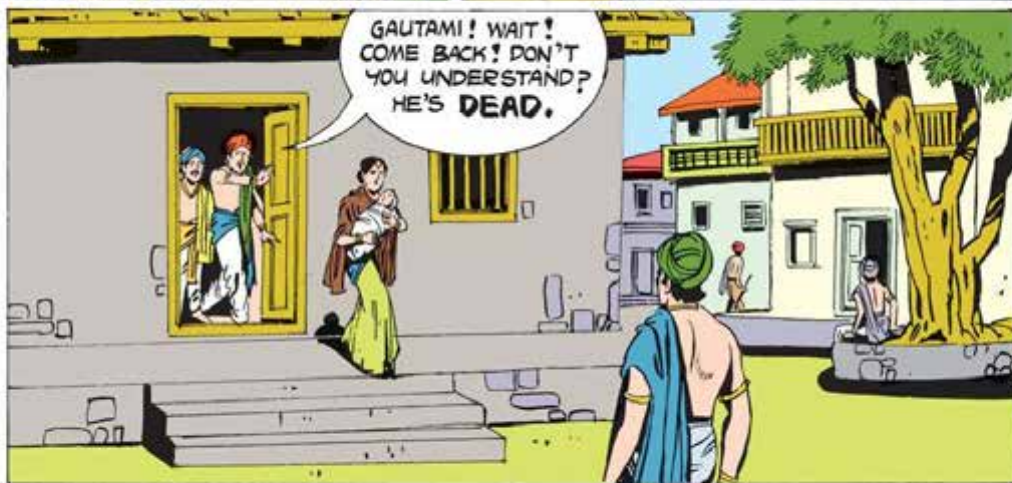
HE HAS NOT
WOKEN UP FOR
HOURS. HE MUST
BE VERY ILL
INDEED.

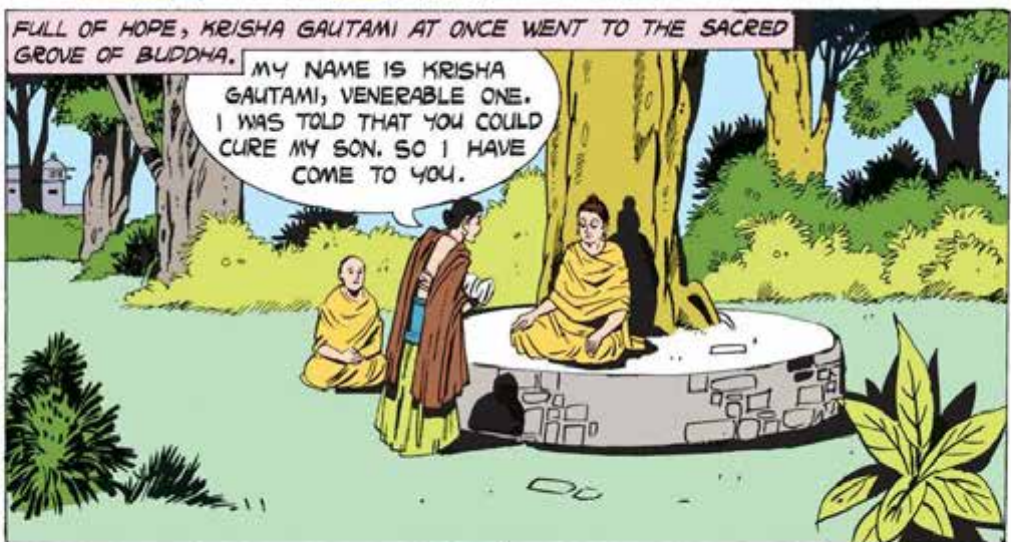
ONCE, IN THE TOWN OF SRAVASTI, A WOMAN
WAS SITTING BY HER CHILD'S BED.

HOW IS
THE CHILD,
GAUTAMI?

THE MAN WAS KRISHA
GAUTAMI'S HUSBAND
AND THE FATHER
OF THE CHILD.

OH, GOD! NO! HE
IS DEAD.

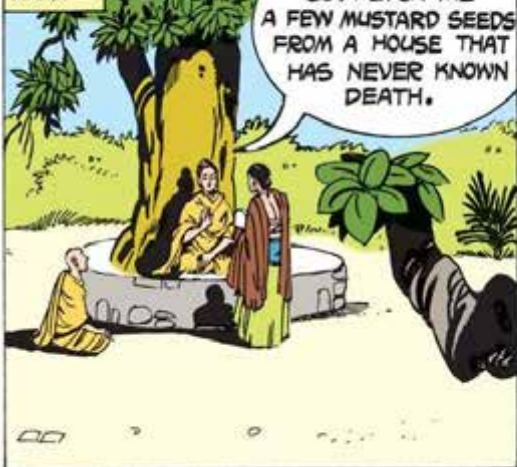




BUDDHA LOOKED AT THE CHILD AND SMILED.



THEN —



KRISHNA GAUTAMI SET OUT ON HER QUEST.



THE WOMAN WENT IN AND BROUGHT THE SEEDS.





KRISHA GAUTAMI WENT ON HER QUEST FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE,
BUT EVERYWHERE IT WAS THE SAME. EVERY HOUSE HAD KNOWN DEATH
AND EVERY DEAD BODY HAD BEEN BURNT TO ASHES.



KRISHA GAUTAMI WENT TO THE FOREST, LAID HER CHILD UPON A CARPET OF FALLEN LEAVES AND FLOWERS...

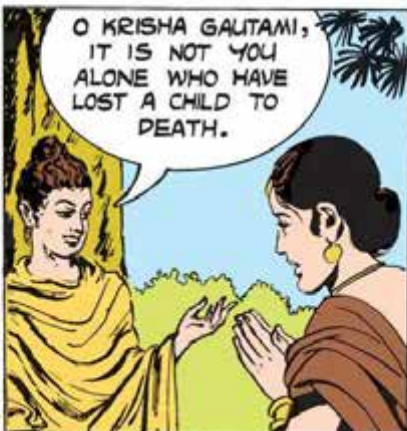


... AND THEN WENT BACK TO BUDDHA.



DID YOU GET THE MUSTARD SEEDS?

NO, HOLY SIR, I COULD NOT GET THEM. THERE IS NOT A HOUSE THAT HAS NOT KNOWN DEATH.



O KRISHA GAUTAMI, IT IS NOT YOU ALONE WHO HAVE LOST A CHILD TO DEATH.



I HAVE REALIZED THAT, O VENERABLE BUDDHA. ADMIT ME INTO YOUR ORDER.

I ACCEPT YOU, KRISHA GAUTAMI.

KRISHA GAUTAMI WAS ADMITTED INTO BUDDHA'S FOLD.

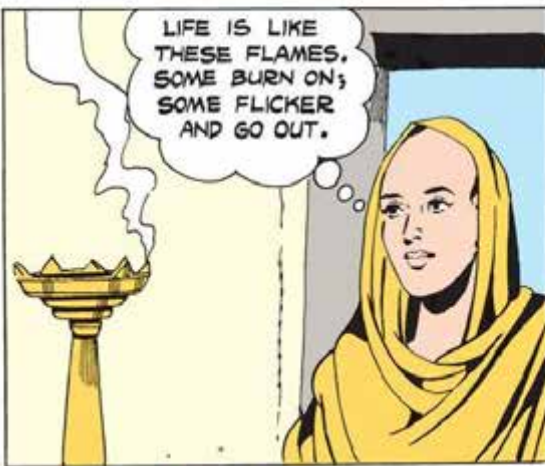
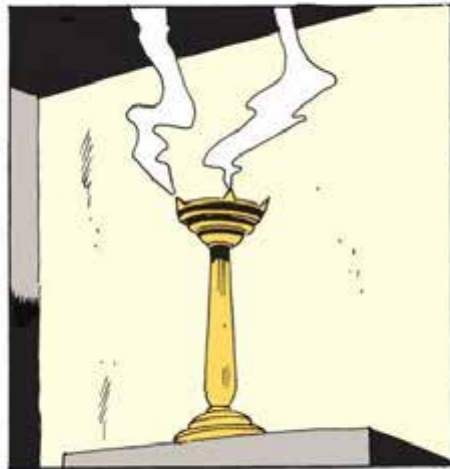
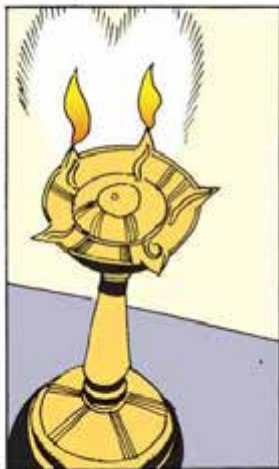


ONE DAY, WHEN IT WAS HER TURN, SHE LIT THE LAMP...

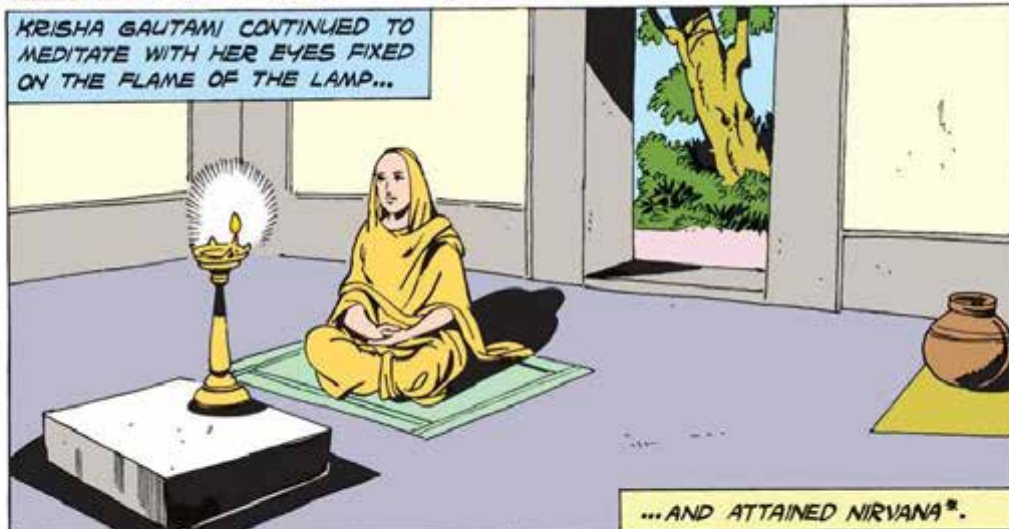


...AND SAT DOWN IN FRONT OF IT.





KRISHA GAUTAMI CONTINUED TO MEDITATE WITH HER EYES FIXED ON THE FLAME OF THE LAMP...



...AND ATTAINED NIRVANA*.

* THE PERFECT STATE

THE PERFECTIONIST

THERE WAS ONCE A CARPENTER WHO PRIDED HIMSELF ON THE QUALITY OF HIS WORK.

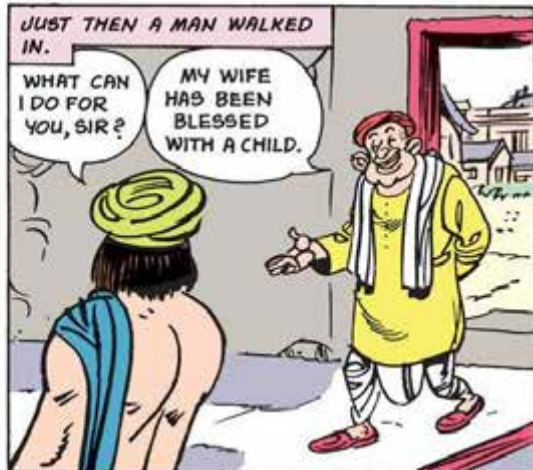
HMM-M. GOOD, BUT NOT GOOD ENOUGH. IT NEEDS IMPROVING. NOW LET ME SEE...



JUST THEN A MAN WALKED IN.

WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, SIR?

MY WIFE HAS BEEN BLESSED WITH A CHILD.



I NEED A CRADLE.

YOU HAVE COME TO THE RIGHT MAN. I'LL MAKE YOU THE BEST CRADLE YOU HAVE EVER SEEN.



A PERFECT DREAM.



WHEN CAN I COME FOR IT?

IT SHOULD BE READY IN A WEEK FROM NOW.



A WEEK LATER —

I'VE COME
FOR THE
CRADLE.

EH?
THE
CRADLE?

OH! THE CRADLE!
AH! THE CRADLE!

I WILL BE HONEST
WITH YOU, SIR.
IT IS NOT YET
READY.

AFTER ALL, IT HAS
GOT TO BE THE BEST
YOU WILL AGREE.

SHALL
I COME
TOMORROW?

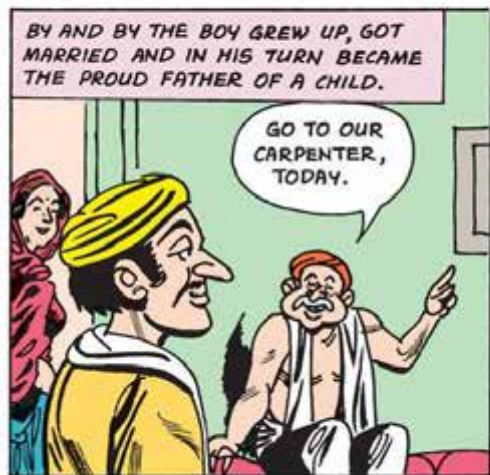
GIVE ME A
WEEK, SIR. THE
CRADLE HAS TO
BE A DREAM,
DON'T FORGET,
SIR.

WEEK AFTER WEEK; THE FATHER CAME, BUT —

NO, IT IS NOT YET
READY, SIR. I AM NOT
SATISFIED WITH MY
WORK. WHATEVER I
DO MUST BE PERFECT.



SOON THE CHILD WAS TOO OLD TO NEED A CRADLE, SO THE FATHER GAVE UP GOING TO THE CARPENTER.



GO TO OUR CARPENTER, TODAY.



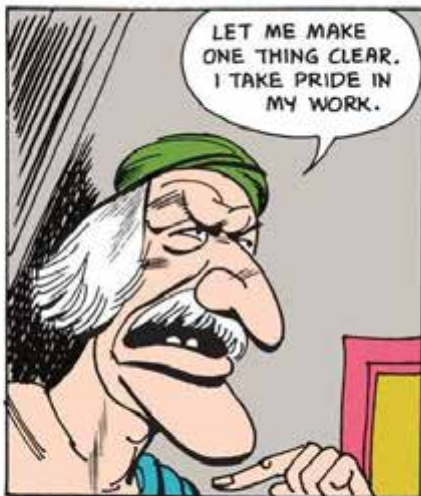
ASK HIM IF THE CRADLE I HAD ORDERED FOR YOU IS READY. YOUR SON COULD USE IT.



SOON —

THE CRADLE MY FATHER ORDERED FOR ME WHEN I WAS BORN SHOULD BE READY BY NOW. SO...

IT ISN'T. AND LOOK, SIR!



LET ME MAKE ONE THING CLEAR. I TAKE PRIDE IN MY WORK.



AND I WILL NOT PERMIT YOU OR YOUR FATHER TO RUSH ME.

THE YOUNG MAN WAS ABOUT TO PROTEST BUT REALISED IT WOULD BE FUTILE TO ARGUE WITH THE PERFECTIONIST, SO HE QUIETLY LEFT THE PLACE.